

Jakarta air crash kills 34

JAKARTA (AP) — A passenger jet of the Indonesian airline Garuda crashed in northern Sumatra on Saturday, killing 34 people, state-run radio reported. Eleven people aboard the DC-9 jet survived the crash at the end of a runway while the plane was landing at Medan airport, the radio Republik Indonesia said. Japan's Kyodo news service said the pilot reported that the plane was struck by lightning and burst into flames when it landed. Officials at Medan's international airport told Reuters the plane tumbled to the ground after hitting high-voltage electricity wires and exploded in a ball of fire that shot flames 10 metres high. The search and rescue agency said the DC-9 Garuda jet was carrying 45 passengers on a flight from the city of Banda Aceh on the northern tip of Sumatra. The plane included a Japanese vice consul, Shoji Onishi, 37, according to the Japanese consulate in Medan. Mr. Onishi, of Nara, was one of three Japanese nationals who died in the crash. Airport authorities said the plane flew into high-voltage electricity wires as it was approaching a landing at Medan's Polonia international airport during bad weather.

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Dakhqan returns

AMMAN (Petra) — Transport Minister Ahmad Dakhqan returned to Amman on Saturday after a four-day visit to Sudan during which he held talks with his Sudanese counterpart on cooperation between Jordan and Sudan in the field of land, sea and air transport, with special focus on Royal Jordanian and Sudan Air. Mr. Dakhqan told Petra that he was also received by Sudanese Prime Minister Sadeq Al Mahdi who gave him a written message to His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan. Mr. Dakhqan said he was also carrying greetings to Prime Minister Zaid Rifai from Mr. Mahdi. On his way home, Mr. Dakhqan made a stopover in Egypt for talks with his Egyptian counterpart Suleiman Mutawalli.

U.S. denies new deals with Iran

WASHINGTON (R) — The White House denied on Saturday a report that the United States was continuing to ship arms or weapons-related equipment to Iran, but an administration official said there had been no weapons sales to Tehran through commercial channels. "To the best of our knowledge, there have been no illegal sales from the forbidden munitions list," a White House spokesman said. The Defense Department also denied any military supplies had been sent to Iran since an administration ban late last year. (See page 2)

Egypt frees 9 suspected Communists

CAIRO (R) — Egyptian security police freed nine suspected members of a Communist group said to have been planning to disrupt Monday's parliamentary elections, security sources said Saturday. The sources said police were still holding one man arrested on Thursday with the other nine, who were released for lack of evidence. Interior Ministry sources said earlier the men had planned to use the elections to incite unrest and that leaflets urging people to vote for Communist candidates were seized. Communist groups are banned in Egypt but their candidates are standing in the elections on the leftist Unionist Progressive Party (U.P.P.) ticket (See related story on page 2)

Gemayel postpones Brazil visit

BRASILIA (R) — Lebanese President Amin Gemayel has postponed indefinitely his official visit to Brazil planned for April 22 to 28, the foreign ministry said. A brief communiqué, which gave no reason for the postponement, said new dates for the visit would be decided through diplomatic contacts.

Ousted Lisbon party urges polls

LISBON (R) — Portugal's Social Democrats, their 17-month rule ended by a parliamentary vote Friday night, called on Saturday for early elections to solve the political crisis. "The only way out of the crisis is to hold elections as soon as possible," Antonio Capucho, head of the parliamentary group of the Social Democratic Party (PSD), said.

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King confers with Hassan II on Mideast peace, Arab issues

His Majesty visits Morocco on first leg of 4-nation trip

RABAT (Agencies) — His Majesty King Hussein arrived here Saturday evening and held a round of talks with King Hassan II of Morocco on the Middle East situation, Jordanian-Moroccan relations and Arab affairs. The Jordan News Agency, Petra, which reported the meeting, did not give details but said Royal Court Chief Marwan Al Qasem and Armed Forces Commander-in-Chief General Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker held a separate meeting with senior Moroccan officials.

The King's visit to Morocco, Petra said, was a brief working trip. The King will proceed to The Netherlands, Belgium and Britain from Morocco. Reporting the King's departure from Amman, Petra said His Majesty would meet with the leaders of the four countries to

discuss efforts towards convening an international conference on the Middle East under U.N. auspices.

The King's visits are part of a flurry of diplomatic activity in the region and elsewhere aimed at reviving moves towards finding a just and lasting solution to the Palestinian problem.

Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak was quoted as saying on Saturday Washington and Moscow were discussing the proposed international conference, and U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Richard Murphy said the U.S. administration was in touch with Syria over the same issue. Arab foreign ministers were meeting in Tunis on Saturday and the European Community (EC) Council of Ministers was holding talks on the Middle East and the issue of

the proposed international conference was expected to figure high in both meetings (see stories below).

At the United Nations, Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar was continuing consultations with ambassadors and foreign ministry officials on prospects for the proposed conference, reports from New York said.

The King visited Syria on Friday in what was seen as coordinating Jordanian-Syrian positions on efforts towards convening the proposed conference.

His Majesty was seen off upon his departure for Morocco on Saturday by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, His Royal Highness Prince Abdullah, Prime Minister Zaid Rifai, the speakers



Prime Minister Zaid Rifai and Foreign Minister Taher Al Masri (left) are seen off upon their departure for the U.S. on Saturday by Deputy Prime Minister Abdul Wahab Al Majali (center), Information Minister Mohammad Al Khatib (right) and Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs Sami Judeh (Petra photo)

Rifai, Masri head for U.S.

AMMAN (J.T.) — Prime Minister Zaid Rifai and Foreign Minister Taher Al Masri left Amman Saturday for the United States on a visit expected to last several days. They will meet with senior officials in the U.S. administration, including Vice-President George Bush, Secretary of State

George Shultz and Secretary of Defense Caspar Weinberger.

In an interview with the Egyptian newspaper Al Ahran, Mr. Masri said this week that Jordan was seeking a defined American position towards an international peace conference.

Arab ministers meet in Tunis

TUNIS (R) — Arab League foreign ministers were meeting on Saturday to discuss the long-running "war of the camps" in Lebanon and a proposed Middle East peace conference. Before the meeting, Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leader Yasser Arafat appeared before an Arab League "war of the camps" special committee and gave an account of latest developments in the fighting, the PLO said.

Farouk Kaddoumi, head of the PLO's political department, told reporters after the meeting that the United Nations Security Council was expected to meet on Monday to discuss the five-month-old siege of the refugee camps by the Syrian-backed Shi'ite Amal militia. "The Security Council met yesterday and it is expected to meet on Monday, just to secure sending convoys of foodstuffs to the refugee camps," said Mr. Kaddoumi.

The "war of the camps" committee, comprising seven foreign ministers and Arab League Secretary General Chadi Khli, was to present a report to the foreign ministers' meeting on its efforts to achieve a ceasefire. Asked about hopes for a ceasefire and conditions in the camps, Mr. Kaddoumi said: "The people are starving ... they have no water. It has become one of the most tragic events in the Middle East. They are besieged and they are in need of ... the necessary elements of life. But they will continue to fight."

He repeated PLO accusations that Syria, which sent thousands of troops into Beirut six weeks ago to stop fighting between leftist Lebanese factions, was directly intervening in support of Amal against Palestinian fighters in the camps.

The foreign ministers of the Arab League attending the regular six-monthly session were also expected to discuss a proposed international Middle East peace conference.

The meeting, chaired by Saudi Arabia under a rotating system, is not expected to agree on the precise structure of the proposed conference, although it will debate the issue in depth, Arab diplomatic sources told Reuters. "The ministers are expected to welcome European Community (EC) support for an international conference."

At the United Nations, sources said Security Council President Boris Tsvetkov of Bulgaria informed his colleague that Lebanon, which is not a member of the council, strongly opposed a meeting on the grounds that the situation in and around the camps was an internal matter.

The council has twice issued statements during the past two months urging a halt to the fighting around the camps to permit the entry of relief supplies.

Mubarak: U.S. and Soviets are discussing Mideast conference

Murphy: Washington is in touch in Syria

KUWAIT (Agencies) — Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak was quoted on Saturday as saying the superpowers were discussing proposals for an international Middle East peace conference.

"There is a dialogue going on now between America and the Soviet Union on an international conference," he told the Kuwaiti daily Al Rai Al Aam.

But he said it would be difficult for the Arabs to attend a conference while rifts existed in their ranks.

"The continuation of differences between Arab countries and Palestinian divisions will destroy the Palestinian cause and lead to a deterioration in the situation," he said.

Contacts by Egypt on the idea of international talks, he said, included "discussion of the mat-

ter of Palestinian representation, with the coordination of the PLO (Palestine Liberation Organisation) and Jordan towards this issue."

Mr. Mubarak said he had urged the PLO to accept U.N. Security Council Resolution 242.

"I told the PLO it could recognise this solution and at the same time make clear its reservations," he said.

The PLO opposes the resolution because it refers only to refugees and does not explicitly recognise the Palestinians as a separate people.

Mr. Mubarak indicated that he

thought an international peace conference must lead to direct Israeli-Palestinian talks. "The (Palestinian) cause will be not resolved by pigeon-carriers or exchange of envoys," he said.

"To be realistic, I have to say there will be direct negotiations at a certain stage, whether we like it or not. Otherwise, how can the (Arab-Israeli) problem be resolved," Mr. Mubarak said.

He stressed in the interview that the United States had to negotiate directly with the parties it had been fighting in Vietnam.

Mr. Mubarak stressed in the interview however that pan-Arab unity was a prerequisite for the success of the conference. "The future augurs well, but we as Arabs must first agree among ourselves before going to the conference," he was quoted as saying.

(Continued on page 3)

Arab panel on Gulf war to meet in Tunis this week

KUWAIT (AP) — A seven-man Arab League committee entrusted with finding a settlement to the 6½-year-old Iraq-Iran war will meet in Tunisia this week at Iraq's request to evaluate the progress of efforts, Kuwaiti foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad said Saturday. Sheikh Sabah made the declaration in Kuwait before leaving for Tunis to attend a scheduled conference of Arab League foreign ministers.

The Gulf war committee, he said, will meet on the fringes of the conference. The committee, formed three years ago, groups Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, North Yemen, Morocco, Tunisia, Iraq and Jordan. It has been trying to muster international support to pressure Iran to accept a negotiated end to the Gulf war.

But Tehran has refused to consider any compromise short of the downfall of the Iraqi government. The committee will meet as Kuwait and other Gulf Arab states have shown increasing concern about the continuation of the war and the hostilities which have engulfed vital shipping lanes in the region.

Sheikh Sabah repeated that his country believes that protecting navigation in the Gulf is "an international responsibility." Protecting navigation within territorial waters, he said, is "the responsibility of each respective Gulf littoral state."

Sheikh Sabah said Iran had not replied to Kuwait's request that a Kuwaiti delegation visit Tehran to discuss with Iranian leaders resolutions regarding the war adopted at an Islamic summit conference held in Kuwait in January. The meeting was boycotted by Iran.

Iranians said trying forced conversions into Shi'ite sect

BAGHDAD (R) — Members of a group of crippled Iraqi prisoners of war (PoWs) released last month said on Saturday Iranians had tortured them to force them to convert to the Shi'ite sect of Islam. The 51 ex-PoWs attending a news conference organised by the Culture and Information Ministry were among 76 prisoners flown to Iraq via Turkey after their release by Iran on March 17. Sarkish Isaac Oshana, a 32-year-old Christian from Iraq's Assyrian minority, said: "I and several other Christian colleagues were tortured with electricity, beaten with iron clubs and forced

Siaka Stevens under house arrest

FREETOWN (R) — Former President Siaka Stevens, who ruled the West African state of Sierra Leone for 17 years, has been put under house arrest as police investigated a coup attempt against his successor Joseph Momoh, police sources said Saturday.

The sources said police suspected 83-year-old Stevens and Francis Minah, who was dismissed as first vice-president on Saturday, of being involved in the March 23 attempt to overthrow President Momoh. Mr. Minah was replaced by Second Vice-President Abu Bakr Kamara whose job was taken over by Salia Jusu Sheriff, an official announcement said.

The coup attempt was the most serious challenge to Mr. Momoh since he took over from Mr. Stevens in a peaceful transition of power in November 1985.

Among those interrogated about the foiled plot was Lebanese businessman Jamil Sahid Mohammad, one of the country's wealthiest and most influential men, the sources said.

It was not clear if he was placed under house arrest.

Without naming Mr. Stevens, Mr. Momoh said Saturday the people behind the plot were those who had destroyed the economy of Sierra Leone while they were in power.

Palestinians appeal to Arab leaders

BEIRUT (R) — Palestinians on Saturday appealed to Arab leaders and the United Nations to intervene on their behalf and end a five-month siege of refugee camps in Beirut. A statement issued in the name of the refugees at Shatila and Bourj Al Barajneh camps said cholera and typhoid were spreading and that many children were starving to death. "We appeal to you to impose a ceasefire, lift the siege, send in supplies and medicine and evacuate the wounded," said the statement, delivered to an international news agency here by the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP). "Many children are starving to death ... 95 per cent of Shatila was destroyed by shelling in addition to the spread of epidemics like cholera and typhoid," the Beirut statement said. It was addressed to the leaders of Syria, Libya, Algeria, South Yemen, representatives of the U.N. Security Council's five permanent members, U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar and Arab League Secretary-General Chadi Khli. Two children were reported killed and seven other people wounded when a truck carrying 16 tonnes of food donated by Saudi Arabia was set ablaze on Friday during clashes at Shatila.



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan is sworn in as Regent in the presence of His Majesty King Hussein prior to the King's departure for Morocco on Saturday (Petra photo)

of the two Houses of Parliament, Cabinet members and senior civil and military officials. Crown Prince Hassan was sworn in as Regent prior to the King's departure.

EC to push for Arab-Israeli peace

BRUSSELS (Agencies) — Foreign ministers of the 12 European Community (EC) states met Saturday for private talks described as crucial for defining a common European stance on disarmament and giving a new impetus to moves for a Middle East peace conference.

The ministers opened their two-day talks behind the closed doors of Condescoak Priory, a 14th century Flemish monastery turned conference centre some 90 kilometres north-east of Brussels.

EC diplomats said the most topical result was likely to be a new initiative to push forward what is widely seen here as the best chance for many years of bringing Arabs and Israelis to the negotiating table under international auspices.

But even more important for European nations was the urgent search for a common definition of Europe's security needs ahead of renewed superpower talks on disarmament and growing demands for a policy largely independent of the United States ally.

The diplomats said that

although security issues did not strictly speaking fall under the EC umbrella, the ministers would discuss them when reviewing two key visits to the superpower capitals last week.

British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher had talks in Moscow with Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev and French Prime Minister Jacques Chirac had talks in Washington with President Ronald Reagan.

The diplomats said Mrs. Thatcher's and Mr. Chirac's talks underlined fears that European interests could be overlooked in any superpower deal to withdraw medium-range nuclear weapons from Europe.

The Middle East discussions were expected to be more straightforward with all EC nations keen to give a new push to the moves to convene an international conference under U.N. auspices.

The EC last month declared its active backing for such a conference, already strongly advocated by the Soviet Union and accepted in principle by the Arabs.

The diplomats said chances appear to have improved markedly in recent weeks as Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres led moves for acceptance by Israel and hints emerged that Washington was prepared to take part after many years of opposition.

Belgian Foreign Minister Leo Tindemans, current president of the EC Council of Ministers, visited New York 10 days ago for exploratory talks with U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar, who has a mandate to prepare such a conference.

The diplomats said Mr. Tindemans was expected to be asked by the ministers to undertake a goodwill mission to the Middle East to try to narrow differences on the likely agenda and about who should take part in such a conference.

On Tuesday, he is due to meet King Hussein who has long advocated a U.N. conference and called on the EC to take the initiative on this proposal as the only way out of the Middle East conflict.

No word on reportedly dying American hostage

BEIRUT (Agencies) — There was no word on the fate of American hostage Alann Steen on Saturday, two days after a videotaped message that Mr. Steen was ill and near death. "The department isn't even sure that Steen is seriously ill," said a police spokesman.

Mr. Steen, 39, said in a message released Thursday by the Islamic Jihad for the Liberation of Palestine that Mr. Steen could die in a few hours.

Mr. Steen, 47, and Mr. Turner taught at Beirut University College (BUC), the two men, along with a third American professor, Robert Polhill, 53, and Mithileshwar Singh, 60, an Indian teacher, were kidnapped from BUC Jan. 24 by gunmen disguised as policemen.

Mr. Turner said in the videotape that Steen's "life will be over in a few hours... despite the treatment he's receiving and the continuous care the Islamic Jihad for the Liberation of Palestine is giving to save his life."

He urged Israel and the United States to fulfill the kidnappers' demand for the release of 400 Arab prisoners in Israel.

But Israel has refused to negotiate the demand and Washington said it would not pressure the Jewish state to change its policy.

Sheikh Mohammad Mehdi Shamseddine, Lebanon's most senior Shi'ite cleric, pleaded Friday for the release of Mr. Steen.

Moscow expels 6 French nationals

MOSCOW (R) — The Soviet Union on Saturday ordered two French diplomats and a French businessman working in Moscow to leave the country within seven days and said another two diplomats and another business official would be expelled later.

Soviet Television said French Ambassador to Moscow Yves Pagniez was summoned to the Foreign Ministry on Saturday and told the six were being expelled for "activities incompatible with their official status," a phrase often used to mean spying.

The expulsion order followed an announcement by France on Thursday that three Soviet diplomats in Paris were being ordered to leave in a move linked to the discovery of a spy ring allegedly trying to gather French space secrets.

Soviet Television said the ambassador had been informed that Moscow considered the expulsion of the Soviet diplomats as "an overtly unfriendly act... aimed at poisoning the atmosphere of Soviet-French contacts."

It said Paris bore full responsibility for the negative consequences of what it described as acts contradicting statements by French authorities about their wish to develop relations with Moscow on a constructive basis.

The diplomatic row has soured relations between Paris and Moscow at a time when French Prime Minister Jacques Chirac has been preparing to visit the Soviet Union next month.

France, announcing the expulsion of the Soviet diplomats, said they were being ordered out for "activities unconnected with their mission and status."

(Continued on page 3)

Mubarak continues election campaign with visits to governorates

CAIRO (R) — President Hosni Mubarak was working the crowds in Egypt's dusty provincial towns this week, waving and blowing kisses to cheering supporters from a limousine like a professional politician anywhere.

Mr. Mubarak, 58, aired issues such as national stability, relations with neighbouring Libya, Arab politics and the economy. He also called for increased production and exports.

His trips to Sharkia and Dakahlia governorates north of Cairo were similar to others he makes periodically as national leader.

But this week, ahead of parliamentary elections on Monday, he was unofficially wearing another hat, as figurehead chairman of the ruling National Democratic Party (NDP).

The election is keenly contested by five groupings — the NDP, the centre-right New Wafd Party, the leftist Unionist Progressive Party (UWP), the small Islamic Umma Party, and an alliance of the Socialist Labour Party (SLP), the Liberals and the Muslim Brotherhood.

Mr. Mubarak took the opportunity of his well-covered provincial trips to squash rumours and opposition campaign jibes.

No radioactive foods contaminated by fallout from the Soviet Chernobyl disaster had entered Egypt, he said. It was untrue that the government planned to end its annual lottery for cut-price Muslim pilgrimage trips to Mecca.

Mr. Mubarak's trips summed up Egypt's democracy which he himself, according to the semi-official Al-Ahram newspaper, sees as a "shield and safety valve to protect society against disturbances."

The indirectly-elected executive presidency is paramount and Mr. Mubarak, not parliament, appoints the prime minister and largely technocratic cabinet.

But, while Egyptian-style democracy is dominated by the NDP, it functions with more freedom and diversity of political voices than many other Arab nations, Western diplomats say.

"It is a controlled democracy, but it works within wider confines and with more flexibility than many others," says one.

Hence the Muslim Brotherhood — officially banned from political activity for the past 33 years — is campaigning in the SLP-led alliance. The government tolerates the Brotherhood as one of Egypt's more moderate Islamic movements.

The real seat of authority, the presidency, is not at stake in Monday's voting.

The NDP is sure to win at least two-thirds of the 458-seat People's Assembly needed to re-nominate Mr. Mubarak, catapulted to power in 1981 when President Anwar Sadat was assassinated, for a second six-year term from next October. His nomination will be endorsed in a national referendum.

Opposition leaders cite this indirect system as one of the flaws in Egyptian democracy.

New Wafd Chief Fouad Serageldin, a 77-year-old political veteran dubbed "the pasha," says the elections are a sham.

"We are acting, there is no democracy. It is all acting," he told a recent Cairo rally.

Opposition leaders want a new constitution that gives more powers to parliament, diminishes the president's powers and provides for direct election of the head of state.

"I told the president, we want to elect you by our own free will and not by dictation from the assembly," Mr. Serageldin said.

The opposition says the system favours the big parties, especially the NDP, because a party must win eight per cent or more of the total vote to take up its seats.

Only the New Wafd crossed that hurdle in the 1984 election, and so formed the opposition in the assembly — 57 to the NDP's 391. The president appoints another 10.

Some 14.4 million Egyptians are eligible to vote for lists of candidates put up by the parties to contest 400 seats from 48 constituencies, and another one in each constituency is reserved for non-party individual candidates.

The number of seats each party gets in a constituency is determined by its proportion of the vote in that area.

In races for the 48 individual seats, candidates must corner at least 20 per cent of the vote to win. Run-off voting is scheduled for April 13 in places where no candidate crosses that barrier on Monday.

Mr. Mubarak had the old assembly dissolved a year ahead of schedule after court challenges to the constitutionality of the law under which it was elected. The elections are being held under amended laws.

U.S. reportedly continuing arms sales to Iran

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — The United States has continued to ship arms-related supplies to Iran despite officially halting all military transfers earlier this year, according to a television report.

NBC television reported that U.S. and foreign intelligence sources said the United States had been shipping "weapons-related equipment" to Iran as recently as early March.

The television report said that according to its unnamed sources the goals of the operation were to keep open a dialogue with elements of the Iranian regime, who had been involved in the earlier dealings, and to acquire intelligence on Soviet operations in Iran.

Another goal was to coordinate American and Iranian support for the Afghan rebels opposing Soviet forces in Afghanistan, NBC said.

NBC quoted a White House spokesman as saying the White House was not aware of any shipments of military-related equipment to Iran. The spokesman said all U.S. exports to that country were subject to strict licensing procedures and nothing is known to have been shipped without official approval.

The Department of Defense denied any military supplies had been sent to Iran since the administration ban, NBC said.

It also said a CIA spokesman would not comment on the report.

NBC said the Pentagon was coordinating shipments of the anti-aircraft Command and Control Equipment used to direct fire of weapons systems.

It said some shipments labelled "machine parts" had moved through Ostend, Belgium, on aircraft of the Santa Lucia Airways, which it identified as a CIA-operated carrier.

The equipment was flown to Pakistan and then transported on Pakistani civilian and military aircraft to Iran, the report said.

In the wake of the Iran arms scandal which severely shook the Reagan administration late last year, Secretary of State George Shultz told the Senate Foreign Relations Committee on an 27 there would be "no more transfers of U.S.-origin military equipment to Iran, either directly or through third parties."

Meanwhile the Senate Intelligence Committee has said that hearings on FBI Director William Webster's nomination to head the CIA will begin next Wednesday, opening the way for public questioning on what role the FBI might have played in the Iran-contra affair.

One source, commenting on condition of anonymity, said preliminary work by the committee has turned up no evidence that could place Webster's nomination in jeopardy.

Mobutu, Habre celebrate Chad victory

N'DJAMENA, Chad (Agencies) — Thousands of Chadians turned out Saturday to cheer President Hissene Habre and Zaire's President Mobutu Sese Seko at ceremonies to celebrate Chad's victory against the Libyan army.

Mr. Mobutu flew in from Kinshasa for six hours to take part in the celebration.

Chadians in tribal robes lined the streets dancing, singing patriotic songs and chanting slogans as the two presidents drove past, standing side-by-side in an open limousine and waving to the crowd.

Groups of men and women in the blue-and-pink costumes of Habre's ruling party, the Union for National Independence and Revolution, sang a song specially composed for the event, including the lyrics: "Welcome Mobutu, you are at home in N'Djamena; Chad and Zaire are a single country."

Detachments of Mr. Habre's desert fighters, who drove the Libyans from nearly all the northern desert they occupied for five years, were lined up at the airport to welcome Mr. Mobutu.

But there was no gunfire as during the exuberant celebrations of the capture of the main Libyan base at Ouadi Doum on March 22. Three people were reported killed by riotous bullets in the earlier festivities.

Nor did the Chadians parade any of the estimated 1,000 Libyan prisoners they took during their triumphant sweep across the

desert. Chadian officials said earlier the prisoners would be displayed, but apparently changed their minds, perhaps fearing acts of violence.

In Ouadi Doum, 1,000 kilometres to the north east, Libyan planes continued attempts to destroy the sophisticated Soviet-made equipment they abandoned there, bombing from an altitude of 20,000 feet (6,100 metres), Chadian sources said.

But the sources, insisting on anonymity, said the lull in the fighting continued on the ground, where the Libyans remain in control of the northern ridges of the volcanic Tibesti range and the "Aouzou strip" of Chadian territory they unilaterally annexed in 1973.

Peres voices optimism on ties with Moscow

ROME (R) — The forthcoming visit to Israel by a Soviet consular delegation could be a step towards resuming diplomatic relations between the two countries, Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres said in an interview published Saturday.

"Since the June 1967 war no official Soviet delegation of this level has come to Israel," Mr. Peres told the leading Italian newspaper Corriere della Sera.

"This visit represents a starting point towards the possible resumption of tentative diplomatic relations between our two countries," he said.

The Soviet Union severed diplomatic relations with Israel during the Middle East war in 1967. Mr. Peres said the Soviet delegation was likely to visit Israel sometime this month.

Earlier this week, Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman Gennady Gerasimov denied a statement by Israel's ambassador in Washington, Meir Rosenfeld, that Israel in return would send an official delegation to Moscow.

Mr. Peres said Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev's programme of reforms was opening up new opportunities for dialogue between Moscow and Israel.

"Until a short time ago, the Soviet Union represented for Israel a completely closed option," he said.

"We have had repeated confirmation from Western politicians who have met the Soviets recently of a desire on the Soviet part to establish a dialogue with us," he added.

Mr. Peres said exit visas for Soviet Jews had risen unexpectedly from an average of 100 a month to nearly 500 in March.

He said the Israeli government had no official confirmation of a statement by U.S. Jewish leaders this week that the Soviet Union had pledged to allow up to 12,500 Jews to leave this year.

"But we are convinced that this is a plan which is in an advanced stage of consideration in Moscow," he said.

Sella gets new job at Israeli military college

TEL AVIV (R) — Col. Aviem Sella, accused of running an Israeli spy ring in the United States, has been appointed an instructor in the prestigious National Security College, the army said Saturday.

Col. Sella resigned as commander of an Israeli air base over his alleged role in the Pollard spy scandal which strained relations with Washington.

A 41-year-old flying ace, he has been indicted in the United States on charges that he recruited former U.S. navy intelligence analyst Jonathan Pollard to spy for Israel.

Pollard, an American Jew, was given a life sentence by a Washington court last month on charges of spying for Israel.

Despite his alleged role in the espionage scandal, Col. Sella was appointed commander of Israel's big Tel Aviv Air Base in a move that angered Washington.

He said last Sunday he was giving up his command to help improve U.S.-Israeli relations.

An army spokesman said Col. Sella has been appointed an instructor in the National Security College which trains military officers groomed for top posts in the Israeli army.

No details were released on what courses Col. Sella will teach at the college.

Meanwhile the Sunday Times of London has reported that Pollard, has gravely compromised American intelligence operations against South Africa. According to Washington sources, Pollard gave the Israelis much highly-secret American intelligence on South Africa. The Israelis, in turn, are believed to have given this to the South Africans.

The disclosure is contained in a 41-page affidavit prepared by Casper Weinberger, the U.S. defence secretary. Mr. Weinberger suggests that at least one American agent in South Africa has been "blown" by Pollard and that others may have been similarly exposed.

The revelation is certain to heighten the already bitter controversy over Pollard, who has just begun a life sentence for treason. Many Israelis resent the way he has been treated. American Jews, on the other hand, are showing

increasing anguish over a case which has brought into question the whole relationship between Israel and the Jews abroad.

In his secret deposition, prepared for the Washington federal court in which Pollard was tried, Mr. Weinberger says America maintains an intelligence gathering effort against "friendly countries" and suggests that Pollard had done immense damage to this. Three countries, in particular, are singled out: Israel itself, Saudi Arabia and South Africa.

Precisely how much secret American material on South Africa Pollard passed to the Israelis is unclear. But the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) is convinced that much of what reached Israel was promptly handed over to Pretoria. As a result, the South Africans were alerted not only to the fact that they were a target of America's intelligence gathering effort but also of the extent of that effort and the way it was being conducted.

Much of the data which Pollard stole from the U.S. was "raw intelligence." Unedited reports from agents and monitoring stations which contained clues about when, where and by whom particular pieces of information were gathered, and assessments of the reliability of the informants. That gave South African counter-intelligence plenty of material to track down spies in its midst.

In calling for a life sentence for Pollard, Mr. Weinberger cites as one of his reasons the damage the spy had done to the "sources and methods" of U.S. intelligence.

The South African connection helps explain the administration's dismay at the Pollard case. Though still regarded as a "friendly country," South Africa is considered a crucial intelligence target because of its position as a regional superpower. U.S. officials are anxious for independent assessments of South Africa's ability to resist economic sanctions, and of the effectiveness of the arms embargo.

But the South Africans are thought by some experts to be as tough a target for espionage as the Soviet Union, and Pollard's spying has jeopardised years of painstaking effort.

White House says Reagan did not 'snub' Carter

WASHINGTON (USIA) — White House spokesman Martin Fitzwater said Secretary of State George Shultz invited White House Chief of Staff Howard Baker and National Security Adviser Frank Carlucci to join him at a State Department breakfast with Jimmy Carter on Friday 3 to hear the former president's views on his recent trip to the Middle East.

Fitzwater said he had no details on the session. The chief of staff and the national security adviser, he said, would "pass along the former president's comments" to President Reagan.

He termed the State Department meeting an "appropriate forum" since Mr. Carter had not asked to see Mr. Reagan. Asked if Mr. Reagan's failure to meet Mr. Carter constituted a snub, Fitzwater said, "well, if President Carter is interested..."

Fitzwater said Mr. Carter's criticism of Mr. Reagan's Mideast policy "is just not an issue. The way it worked out was he was invited to breakfast at the State Department, gave a read-out..."

As to why he was not invited to the White House, Fitzwater said it was "because he was invited to breakfast at the State Department."

U.S. sees Iran's opposition Mujahedeen as terrorist group

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — The U.S. government does not support the Iranian opposition group, Mujahedeen-e-Khalq, whom it views as a "terrorist" organisation. State Department spokesman Charles Redman said Friday.

He said it is an "organisation which continues to use terrorism and violence as standard instruments in its policies."

An Evans and Novak column criticised the State Department for "quietly trashing the first effective anti-Khomeini opposition in Iran" — the Mujahedeen-e-Khalq.

In detailing the department's view of the Mujahedeen, the spokesman read the following statement:

Although the People's Mujahedeen Organisation of Iran (PMOI) is against the Khomeini regime, this is no reason for us to support a group which has engaged in terrorist acts for several years.

The PMOI has advocated violence since its inception and has worked for a re-emphasis in Iranian society of Shia Islam, reformed in the light of Marxist principles.

"The organisation has a long record of terrorist activity."

Carter briefs U.N. chief on Middle East trip

UNITED NATIONS (R) — Former U.S. President Jimmy Carter, just back from a tour of several Middle Eastern countries, has briefed Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar on his trip, a U.N. spokesman said.

The meeting took place at the U.N. chief's residence.

Mr. Carter has been urging the convening of an international conference to resolve the Arab-Israeli dispute. Mr. Perez de Cuellar has a mandate from the General Assembly to lay the groundwork for such a conference.

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U.S. links member of JDL with car bombings

NEW YORK (AP) — Evidence found at the home of a suspected member of the Jewish Defence League (JDL) links with car bombings aimed at a former leader of the militant group, a federal prosecutor says.

Federal authorities also are investigating if there is a connection between Murray Young and the 1985 bombing that killed Arab rights leader Alex Odeh in Santa Ana, California.

Young was arrested Wednesday on a complaint that accused him of possessing an illegal slinger for a pistol. He has pleaded innocent.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Gregory O'Connell said a search warrant executed on Young's home Friday turned up documents linking him to two car bombings in December 1985 and March 1986.

Young, a 59-year-old electrician, was released on a \$1-million bond after a hearing in which U.S. magistrate Simon Chretn of

Brooklyn said he was "convinced that the government has an extremely strong case."

O'Connell said investigators found handwritten directions to the house of Walter Berk and descriptions of Berk's cars during their search. Berk, who is cooperating with authorities, is a former leader of the JDL in New York who was feuding with Young.

Berk's cars were bombed in Dec. 11, 1985, and March 13, 1986.

Ivy Rubin of Los Angeles, national chairman of the JDL, denied Thursday that Young is a member of that organisation.

Mr. Odeh was killed on Oct. 11, 1985, when a bomb tore through the door of the Santa Ana office of the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee (ADC), just hours after he had defamed as "man of peace" on a television news programme.

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JORDAN TELEVISION	
22:00	Evening Show continued
22:30	News Summary
23:57	News Headline
24:00	Close Down
PROGRAMME ONE	
15:30	Koran
15:50	Programme Review
16:55	Cartoons
17:00	Children's programme
17:30	A Whole World of Children
17:50	Give Me a Break
18:30	Local Agricultural Programme
19:00	Local Series
19:30	Local Programme
19:50	Programme Review
20:00	News in Arabic
20:30	Arabic series
21:30	Cultural programme
22:00	Local variety programme
22:30	News summary in Arabic
23:10	Arabic series
PROGRAMME TWO	
17:30	Les amis
19:00	News in French
19:15	La force du destin
19:30	News in Hebrew
19:45	Varieties
20:00	News in Arabic
20:30	Growing Pains
21:10	Acid Rain (documentary)
22:30	News in English
23:30	Robbery Under Arms (mini series)
RADIO JORDAN	
855 KHz, AM & 99 MHz, FM & partly on 95.0 KHz, SW	
Tel: 774111-19	
07:00	Light Music
07:30	Newsweek
08:00	Morning Show
08:30	News Summary
09:00	Pop Session
09:30	In Concert
10:00	News Summary
10:30	Pop Talk
11:00	News Summary
11:30	Pop Session contd.
12:00	News Bulletin
12:30	Instrumentals
13:00	Science Report
13:30	Concert Hour
14:00	News Summary
14:30	Instrumentals
15:00	Old Favourites
15:30	Listeners' Choice
16:00	News Summary
16:30	Jazz Hour
17:00	Newsweek
17:30	Evening Show
18:00	News Summary
21:00	Evening Show continued
21:55	News Summary

WHAT'S GOING ON	
TODAY'S EVENTS	
EXHIBITIONS	
* An art exhibition by 17 contemporary Arab artists at the Petra Bank Art Gallery — Wadi Sagg Street (until April 9)	
* Wild and cultivated flowers of Jordan in 60 pictures by Mrs. Rita Ghad are on display at the Gallery, Hotel Jordan International (until April 9)	
* An exhibition of photographs from North Korea at the University of Jordan	
PLAY	
"The Gin Game" by the American National Theatre alliance at 8:00 p.m. at the Royal Cultural Centre.	
CULTURAL CENTRES	
Royal Cultural Centre .. Tel. 6610267	
American Centre .. 644371	
British Council .. 615520	
French Cultural Centre .. 637009	
Goethe Institute .. 641993	
Soviet Cultural Centre .. 642035	
Spanish Cultural Centre .. 620409	
Turkish Cultural Centre .. 639777	
Haya Arts Centre .. 665195	
Hussein Youth City .. 6671816	
Y.W.C.A. .. 641793	
Y.W.M.C.A. .. 664221	
Amman Municipal Library .. 637111	
Univ. of Jordan Library .. 843553	
MUSEUMS	
"Children's Heritage and Science Museum." Fun and knowledge for all ages, plus a small planetarium at the Haya Arts Centre. Open all week 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Closed on Friday.	
Fakhre Museum. Jewellery and ornaments over 100 years old. Also mosaics from Madaba and Jerash (4th to 18th centuries). The Roman Theatre, Amman. Opening hours: 9:00 a.m.-3 p.m. Year-round. Tel. 651700.	
Jordan Archaeological Museum. Has an excellent collection of the antiquities of Jordan. Jabel Al Qal'a (Clashed Hill). Opening hours: 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. (Fridays and official	

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (06) 55200-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS ROYAL JORDANIAN FLIGHTS (Terminal 1)

16:30	Baghdad (RJ)
16:40	Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
16:55	Jeddah (RJ)
17:05	Karachi (RJ)
17:15	Doha, Bahrain (RJ)
17:30	Cairo, Amman (RJ)
18:30	New York, Amsterdam (RJ)
18:40	Athens (RJ)
19:05	Brussels, Frankfurt (RJ)
19:25	Los Angeles, Chicago, Vienna (RJ)
19:35	Madrid, Geneva (RJ)
20:30	Paris (RJ)
20:35	London, Rome (RJ)
62:30	Baghdad (RJ)

OTHER FLIGHTS (Terminal 2)

16:40	Berlin, Larnaca (IF)
12:30	Cairo (MS)
12:45	Tripoli (LN)
13:30	Jeddah (SV)
14:00	Moscow, Bahrain (GF)
14:40	Karachi (EK)
15:40	Dubai (EK)
16:30	Baghdad (IA)
17:35	Athens, Damascus (OA)
19:15	Frankfurt (LH)
61:45	London, Cairo (BA)

DEPARTURES ROYAL JORDANIAN FLIGHTS (Terminal 1)

07:45	Baghdad (RJ)
11:50	Tunis, Comblancha (R)
12:30	Vienna, New York (RJ)
12:50	Athens (RJ)
12:50	Cairo (RJ)
20:30	Karachi, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
22:30	Kuala Lumpur, Singapore (RJ)
22:30	Riyadh (RJ)
22:30	Jeddah (RJ)
22:15	Damascus (RJ)
22:15	Cairo (RJ)
23:00	Dubai, Moscow (RJ)
23:00	Baghdad (RJ)

OTHER FLIGHTS (Terminal 2)

06:20	Frankfurt (LH)
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09:00	Damascus, Paris (AF)
10:30	Rome (AZ)
11:20	Larnaca, Berlin (IF)
12:20	Cairo (MS)
14:40	Tripoli (LN)
15:40	Bahrain, Abu Dhabi, Moscow (GF)
15:50	Jeddah (SV)
15:45	Karachi (EK)
16:40	Dubai (EK)
18:20	Athens (OA)
18:30	Baghdad (IA)
20:30	Sana'a (LF)

PRAYER TIMES

04:57	Fajr
06:17	(Sunrise) Dhuhr
12:36	Dhuhr
16:10	Asr
19:40	Maghrib
20:20	Isha

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

It will be partly cloudy, with chances for scattered rain, and winds will be northwesterly fresh. In Aqaba, it will be dusty and partly cloudy, with northerly fresh winds and rough sea.

	Min./max. temp.
Amman	6 / 15
Aqaba	9 / 23
Decrerts	4 / 19
Jordan Valley	10 / 23

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 51 per cent, Aqaba 34 per cent.

MONEY EXCHANGE

Saturday rates

	Local sell/buy rates in file
Belgian franc	88.4 / 89.8
Dutch guilder	163 / 164.4
French franc	55.1 / 55.6
Italian lira	25.7 / 26.1
Japanese yen (for 100)	228.4 / 230.9
Swedish crown	32.8 / 33.2
Swiss franc	220.3 / 222.1
U.K. sterling pound	536.7 / 544.4
U.S. dollar	334.2 / 336.7
W. German mark	183.3 / 185.2

European parliamentarians visit two refugee camps

AMMAN (J.T.) — The European nations support Jordan's call for convening an international conference on the Middle East and His Majesty King Hussein's endeavours for convening the conference, the head of a visiting European parliamentary delegation said here Saturday.

Mr. Klaus Haenschel who leads a delegation of European legislators on visit to the Middle East said that the proposed international conference should find a proper means for establishing a lasting peace and restoring the rights of the Palestinian people. Mr. Haenschel was speaking during a tour of Baqaa refugee camp in the company of the other members of his party which represents the European parliament and national assemblies.

The delegation visited also the Jerash refugee camp and were briefed by officials on the living conditions of the Palestinian refugees and the health and educational services offered by the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) and the Jordanian government.

The delegation members toured various sections of the two camps and visited schools and health centres there.

Mr. Haenschel said in his statement that the European Com-

munity is committed to offer assistance to the refugees and to help solve the Palestine problem through an international conference.

Before going to the two camps, the delegation visited UNRWA's headquarters in Amman. They were briefed by officials on the services the agency provides to Palestinian refugees in Jordan.

A meeting with Mr. Akel Al Fayez, speaker of the Lower House of Parliament, scheduled for Saturday was cancelled and the delegation went to Aqaba instead. On Thursday the delegation were received by Minister of Occupied Territories Affairs Marwan Dudin and they are expected to meet with other officials on Sunday before departing for the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

The delegation comprises legislators from the national assemblies of France, Norway, Portugal, the Netherlands, France, Britain, West Germany, Belgium, Spain and Italy.

According to UNRWA Public Information Officer William Lee, the fact-finding tour of the delegation is being sponsored by the Parliamentary Association for Euro-Arab Cooperation in coordination with UNRWA.

Homsis secures JPA presidency after debate on election rules

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordanian pharmacists elected Mr. Tayseer Homsi as president of the Jordan Pharmacists Association (JPA) on Friday after a heated debate over the legality of his victory.

The association's law stipulates that a candidate needs to secure an absolute majority of the votes (half plus one) in order to win the election. Mr. Homsi received 322 out of 634 votes cast while the number of registered voters was 661. The confusion occurred when the election committee clashed with association council members who protested that Mr. Homsi needed to secure half plus one the registered voters and not the cast votes. There were 10 blank ballots.

Following a heated debate involving several lawyers, Mr. Sadr and Mr. Taibi, who obtained 236 votes and 66 votes respectively, withdrew their protest and relinquished their demand for a second round of voting.

Mr. Homsi thanked Mr. Sadr and Mr. Taibi for their cooperation and called on his colleagues to work together towards the well-being of the profession and its practitioners.

The nine council seats were filled by Abdul-Fattah Tishbat (254 votes); Tal'at Mdeinat (236 votes); Abdul Rahim Ma'yah (231 votes); Abdul Rahim Issa (329 votes); Mohammad Sabbagh

(258 votes); Yasser Kamal (234 votes); Yusef Al Rabai (334 votes); Najah Ramahi (243 votes); and Ziad Abu Humus (228 votes). Pharmacist Nabil Ideli won by nomination for the West Bank seat. There were 551 pharmacists participating in the council election.

Mr. Sadr, speaking after Mr. Homsi's victory, said he will be working for the advancement of the profession from within and without the association. Mr. Homsi succeeded Mr. Ghabib Sabbarini, the former association president.

In a speech at the Professional Association's Complex, Mr. Sabbarini praised the efforts exerted by local committees of pharmacists in Irbid and Zarqa in the area of committing public companies to adopt a system of issuing prescriptions for their employees.

Mr. Sabbarini said that the association's technical committee has been able, over last year, to effectively enforce medication regulations.

The Ministry of Health moved last year to ban the sale of number of medications in pharmacies without prescriptions. Violators under the government laws would be subject to prosecution by court or being referred to a disciplinary council.

Council heads thank King for moves to ease municipalities' debt burden

AMMAN (Petra) — Heads of municipal and rural councils in Jordan on Saturday voiced their deep gratitude to His Majesty King Hussein and His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan for the recent government decisions designed to improve the councils' financial conditions. The heads of these councils also voiced appreciation for the efforts of Prime Minister Zaid Rifai and his government for extending all possible help to boost the work of the municipal and village councils in the country.

Representatives of these councils voiced the general feeling during a meeting here on Saturday with Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment Yusef Hamdan.

The minister told the delegation that the government's decision was in response to directives by King Hussein who is keen on enabling the councils carry out their duty in offering high standard services to the public. The Cabinet on Tuesday announced measures which exempt councils from paying interest on loans obtained from the Cities and Villages Development Bank and it rescheduled council's loans to be paid over a 10 year period with a two-year grace period in order to help these councils honour their commitments and carry out essential services.

Mr. Hamdan announced that his ministry will study the prospect of establishing a pension fund for municipalities' employees and that a circular in this respect has been distributed to sound out the views of all concerned. The minister also announced that he will be making trips to various governorates to meet pri-

vately with heads of local councils and discuss solutions to their problems. Projects that are to be financed by the Cities and Villages Development Bank have already been defined and the ministry will have to study each loan to be obtained for the future in the light of individual council's financial capabilities, the minister pointed out.

Ministry measures

The Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs will keep control over projects carried out by local councils and will help these councils preserve agricultural land, Mr. Hamdan added.

The ministry will also strengthen its departments in various regions to enable them to promote their services to local councils and it will create special sections to handle issues of organisation and to gather information on all local councils in the country, the minister continued.

Reviewing the reasons behind the councils' failure to pay back their accumulated loans, the minister said that they lacked proper systems for collecting dues and at the same time they greatly expanded their services.

Following the minister's speech a general dialogue took place during which the minister replied to various questions.

Pension proposal

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Foundation takes part in conference on International Children's Community

AMMAN (J.T.) — A two-member delegation from the Noor Al Hussein Foundation (NHF) returned to Amman on Saturday after taking part in an international conference held in the American state of Alabama, called to discuss the establishment of an International Children's Community (ICC).

Representatives of 14 different countries and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO)

took part in the meeting and discussed the bylaws and regulations of the proposed ICC which aims at promoting world understanding and peace as well as developing cooperation among various world nations.

The ICC, which is to be set up in the state of Alabama, will comprise a secondary school for students from all world nations, a children's research centre and an international cultural centre, according to Mr. Issam Zawawi,

a member of the NHF delegation to the conference.

He said that the meeting discussed terms for enrolling students at the ICC schools the curricula that should be given and the different programmes for the children.

The meeting also discussed the requirements of the proposed International Cultural Centre which will display cultural items from different nations and which is designed to bolster world understanding and serve the cause of peace, Mr. Zawawi added. He said that the conference issued an appeal to world nations and various organisations to lead support to this project which, he said, would contribute towards promoting world peace.

"According to Mr. Zawawi, the idea for establishing the ICC was initiated by the residents of Birmingham city in Alabama which will house the project.

The residents of the city have formed an executive committee chaired by the Reverend Edward Wilson to promote the ICC.

The second member of the delegation was Dr. Arwa Al Amiri, also from the University of Jordan.

Rural development organisation to meet in Amman April 21

AMMAN (J.T.) — The African Rural Reconstruction Organisation (AARRO) will hold a meeting in Amman on April 21, according to Mr. Adib Burqan, AARRO's regional director. He said that the meeting will discuss subjects related to the development of rural regions, improving health and other public services and establishing rural cooperatives.

An agreement was signed in

Amman in September for the establishment of an AARRO regional office in Amman and Mr. Burqan said that the office will act to achieve the organisation's objectives by extending help to countries of the region in implementing projects in rural areas. This office is one of four regional offices AARRO decided to set up in Asia and Africa during its last conference held in Seoul, South Korea, last April.

No word on reportedly sick U.S. hostage

(Continued from page 1)

"Hostage Alan Steen is said to be ill in captivity... his case should be dealt with in a spirit of Islamic tolerance and his kidnapped colleagues should be treated likewise," he said.

The kidnappers are believed to be Shi'ite extremists loyal to Iran. "Kidnapping should be brought to an end altogether. This is an un-Islamic method that we do not approve of," said Sheikh Shamseddine, vice chairman of the Higher Islamic Shi'ite Council that governs the religious affairs of Lebanon's largest sect.

In another videotaped message released last week, Mr. Turner said Mr. Steen was suffering from high blood pressure and breathing difficulties.

U.S. State Department spokesman Charles Redman, commenting on the latest reports about Mr. Steen's health, said: "These are not humanitarian gestures by the kidnappers, they are cynical attempts at the manipulation of innocent victims and their families."

Redman said the United States holds the kidnappers responsible for the health and safety of their victims and called for the immediate and unconditional release of all hostages.

Beirut's independent French-language l'Orient-Le Jour newspaper reported Saturday that U.S. Ambassador to Lebanon John Kelly was holding talks in Damascus about American hostages.

The newspaper did not give a source for its story that Mr. Kelly travelled to Damascus on Friday. U.S. embassy officials declined to comment.

"Nothing is known about the visit but observers say it is related to important developments that could take place soon on the issue of the American hostages," the newspaper said.

Participants in symposium hear figures on poultry industry

(Continued from page 1)

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan's poultry meat production stood at 55,000 tonnes in 1985, up from 20,000 tonnes in 1973, and production now covers 90 per cent of the local market needs, according to Dr. Ghassoub Al Asali, the director of animal production and health at the Ministry of Agriculture.

He said that at present, Jordan has 1,326 poultry farms with approximately 44 million birds a year and these farms have produced nearly 520 million table eggs, up from 40 million in 1973.

Dr. Asali was addressing the opening session of a regional symposium on the poultry industry organised by the Jordan-based Regional Poultry Training and Development Centre for the Near East.

Dr. Asali reviewed Jordan's endeavours to promote its poultry industry in cooperation with countries of the region. He said that Jordan has set up three plants for producing veterinary vaccines but noted that as yet their total production is not sufficient for the local market, and so many vaccines are still imported from other countries, along with feed concentrates. This importation has raised the overall production cost of poultry meat and eggs and has also led to difficulties in marketing the products, Dr. Asali pointed out. But he noted that the Ministry of Agriculture has been adopting certain measures in order to overcome these problems.

Dr. Asali who deputised for Minister of Agriculture Marwan Hmoud in opening the symposium called on the participants to help find solutions to problems facing the poultry industry.

The Italian government contributed towards the establishment of the centre in Jordan and its director Dr. Abdul Karim Al Khazraji said that Italy paid approximately \$3 million to finance its operations.

Jordanian families to host group of W. German students

AMMAN (J.T.) — Under the motto "Jordan Welcomes You," a group of German students comprising 13 members aged between 13 and 19 years from the Jugenddorf-Christophorus School in Elze, Federal Republic of Germany, will arrive at Amman on April 5 on a two-week visit to Jordan on the invitation of Al Ra'ed Al Arabi School (sponsored by the Arab Cultural Society) and in coordination with the German-Arab Centre, Elze. During their stay in Jordan, the German students will be accommodated at the homes of their host Jordanian students from Al Ra'ed Al Arabi School.

The Arab Cultural Society, in cooperation with the Jordanian authorities and host families, has worked out a special programme for the guest students to visit historic and tourist places in Jordan as well as educational institutions and other welfare projects pointing out progress achieved in Jordan, according to a press release issued by the Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany.

The German-Arab Centre has invited the Arab Cultural Society to send 13 Jordanian students to Germany during the summer holidays as reciprocal measure under similar arrangement, the release said.

The exchange of students falls within the framework of cultural cooperation between the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and the Federal Republic of Germany. It provides a unique opportunity to the younger generation of both countries to be closely acquainted with each others' social habits, traditions and way of life for future build-up of mutual understanding on solid basis, according to the press release.

Police catch vehicle, sheep thieves after 1½ hours chase

By Ahmad Kreishan
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A group of three robbers who stole a pick-up truck and a number of sheep were arrested on Saturday after being chased by police for one and a half hours.

First Lieutenant Mahmoud Al Haisneh, head of the public relations department at the Amman district police station, said that the thieves were first spotted by a police patrol at Abu Alanda, south of here as they were parking their stolen pick-up truck at the side of the road. When asked why they were parked there the thieves said they had run out of petrol. Later, the police patrol car returned to the spot and found that the pick-up had not moved and that the occupants had made no move to purchase petrol.

When they saw the police car again, the thieves pulled away and drove off at great speed, hoping to escape police questioning again, Lt. Haisneh said. The pick-up truck, which was moving southwards along the Desert Highway, ignored all signs to stop from other patrol cars on the road which had been called up to help in the chase, he added. Lt. Haisneh said that the pick-up truck travelled for nearly 150 kilometres with a number of petrol cans giving chase until the truck reached Qatranah where it skidded off the road and overturned.

The driver and the two other occupants got out and tried to escape but were apprehended and taken to the Qweismeh police station for questioning, Lt. Haisneh said.

The three thieves admitted stealing the pick-up truck from a garage where it had been left for repair and also confessed that they had stolen a number of sheep from a fold in Abu Alanda.

Hindawi reviews objectives of education policy with newly appointed directors at ministry

AMMAN (J.T.) — Minister of Education Thooqan Hindawi said Saturday that recent changes within the Ministry of Education and a reshuffle of heads of the ministry's departments were in compliance with the directives of His Majesty King Hussein who is keen on placing the right man in the right position.

The recent changes were necessary to promote the educational process in the Kingdom and to plug any loopholes in the country's educational policies, the minister said during a meeting with members of the education committee.

Dr. Radi Al Waqfi, the newly-appointed secretary general of the Ministry of Education, was present at the meeting along with the new heads of departments at the ministry.

The education committee has a dual task to carry out; it will have to close any loopholes in the educational system and at the same time it must also think of ways to cope with modern trends

in education over the coming two decades, the minister said.

Mr. Hindawi referred to the education law which, he said, entrusted the education committee with handling and planning of educational changes in the whole system. For this reason, this committee must shoulder its task with great care and responsibility and should work out programmes and means of carrying them out, the minister continued.

Dr. Waqfi also addressed the meeting, echoing the minister's call for closing loopholes in the educational system. The changes recently undertaken by the ministry are aimed at giving the new heads of departments greater

powers which would enable them to take speedy and effective decisions to serve the educational system, Dr. Waqfi added.

After the speeches, the committee members embarked on their sessions and discussed arrangements for the 1987-1988 scholastic year, dates for examinations and school holidays as well as the work of committees entrusted with formulating school curricula.

The committee will also discuss working papers on vocational schools, scholarships and cultural centres, as well as a general admissions examination for students who have completed the preparatory stage.

The Ministry of Education recently retired 28 senior officials and appointed Dr. Waqfi to replace Dr. Ahmad Al Bashairah. A few days later new appointments for department directors were made.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Fayez receives invitation to visit China

AMMAN (Petra) — Speaker of the Lower House of Parliament Akel Al Fayez Saturday received Chinese Ambassador in Amman Chang Jin who delivered an invitation from the standing committee of the Chinese People's Council for Mr. Fayez to visit China. Mr. Fayez and the ambassador also discussed existing bilateral relations during their meeting.

Dudin confers with Danish envoy

AMMAN (Petra) — Denmark's non-resident ambassador to Jordan Poul Bent Saturday conferred in Amman with Minister of Occupied Territories Affairs Marwan Dudin. They discussed the situation in the Israeli-held Arab lands and projects which are needed to help the indigenous population overcome the present economic difficulties. They also discussed prospects of Denmark's participation in implementing these projects.

Charity march continues through desert

AMMAN (J.T.) — The hardest part of the charity march across Jordan has begun for Vicken Dakessian and Ali Pharaon. Yesterday they embarked on the third and final stage of the march, which will cover 301 kilometres of mostly desert territory. Leaving the Gateway Hotel at 7:00 a.m. the two Jordanians walked 25 kilometres before stopping for a two hour rest. By 7:00 p.m. they had covered 49 kilometres, totalling 122 kilometres since they began in Ramtha on April 1. Two hundred and fifty two kilometres are left before they reach their final destination, the Aqaba Tourist Hotel. Vicken and Ali will spend the night in a car park four kilometres from Swaqa, the only village they have passed on the way.

Corporation issues bulletin on imports

AMMAN (Petra) — A total of 239,786 tonnes of various goods were imported via Aqaba port during February, according to a Ports Corporation statistical bulletin. The bulletin said that 368,401 tonnes of transit goods were also imported during the same month destined for Iraq, Syria, Saudi Arabia, Lebanon, Kuwait, Yemen and the United Arab Emirates. Rice, fodder, vegetable oils, cereals, timber, lubricants and construction materials made up the bulk of the imports.

Taxi overturns killing one, injuring 5

KARAK (Petra) — One person was killed and five others injured in a road accident when a public transport taxi overturned near Al Kharazeh area on the Karak-Ghor Al Safi road in the south of Jordan. The casualties were taken by the civil defence authorities to the government and Prince Ali Hospital in Karak.

Swiss medical team to conduct study

AMMAN (J.T.) — A Swiss medical team led by Dr. Andre Muller, president of the International Association of Logopedics and Phoniatrics, is due here on April 12 for a 10-day visit to Jordan. The team will take part in a seminar on logopedics and phoniatrics which will open at the University of Jordan on April 15. They will also tour different schools in various parts of the Kingdom to help carry out a survey of students suffering from logopedic and phoniatric problems. The Swiss team will work with specialists from the University of Jordan and Dr. Naser Qutli, head of the Department of Logopedics and Phoniatrics at Ein Shams University in Cairo. The team will also be taken on a tour of Jordan's tourist and archaeological sites.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE JORDANIAN SAVE THE CHILDREN FUND

The Jordanian Save the Children Fund announces that the lottery for the First Spring Festival held by the fund at the Amman Plaza Hotel was drawn on Friday, 3 April 1987, and the following numbers won the following prizes:

First Prize: Two economy air tickets to fly Amman - Los Angeles - Amman presented by Royal Jordanian. Winning number is 8597.

Second Prize: Two economy air tickets to fly Amman - London - Amman presented by Royal Jordanian. The prize includes accommodation presented by the Amman Plaza Hotel. Winning number is 788.

Third Prize: Two economy air tickets to fly Amman - Amsterdam - Amman presented by KLM - The Royal Dutch Airline. The prize includes accommodation presented by Sonesta Golden Tulip Hotel - Amsterdam, and the Golden Tulip Hotel - Barbizon. Winning number is 797.

Fourth Prize: A Jacuzzi presented by Al-Diwan, the occasion planners. Winning number is 6743.

Notice: for receipt of prizes, winners are kindly requested to call tel: 816623

'Superpowers discussing conference'

(Continued from page 1)

Egypt would "not permit Israel to impose anything we do not like," he added.

In his interview Mr. Mubarak dismissed the disagreement between Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres over the conference.

"Hear what Peres says, and do not show much interest in Shamir's viewpoint," Mr. Mubarak was quoted as saying. Mr. Peres supports the staging of the conference, while Mr. Shamir rejects this.

Mr. Mubarak said he was convinced the United States "on the necessity of having a dialogue with the PLO." Washington has been refusing to deal with the PLO unless it accepts Resolution 242.

Mr. Mubarak said the Israelis "now accept the convening of the international conference with the PLO represented in a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation."

"Let us accept this and when the Israelis reject it, we expose them to the whole world and they will not be able to challenge the world," he was quoted as saying.

U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Richard Murphy was quoted as saying on Saturday that the United States was in contact with Syria over the proposed international conference, even though there is no U.S. ambassador in Damascus.

Suit challenges deportation order

(Continued from page 1)

until their deportation hearing later this month, have denied through their lawyers any association with the front.

The eight face deportation under the Immigration and Nationality Act, also known as the McCarran-Walter Act, because they are alleged to have written for or circulated in the United States three magazines — two in English, the other in Arabic — that support the front.

"For just being an Arab in

general, or a Palestinian in particular, is considered by this administration as a statement they want to suppress," Michele Ibrahim Nasif Shabadeh, a 30-year-old journalism student who is one of the eight immigrants, told reporters at an ACLU news conference.

"And it seems that whenever the Arab-American community get together in celebration of their culture, their occasions are considered by this administration as a pool for terrorists," he added.

Sunday's Economic Pulse

By Dr. Fahed Fanek

Troubled companies: Who should pay the price?

AROUND five years ago, it became obvious that a number of companies were in deep financial trouble, and that they could not possibly survive and continue depending on their own means.

The question then was: Who would pay the price — the shareholders, or the taxpayers and the national economy as a whole?

Several precious years passed, during which the problem grew, before we were able to make up our minds and come up with a solution. More years will have to pass before we know for sure whether the solution adopted by the government to support the troubled companies was the right one, or whether it would have been better to apply the surgical solution.

We can now see that the government has taken the view that, no matter what, the weak companies will not be allowed to fail. The hopeless Timber Processing Company was the only exception. The so-called "correction measures for the failing companies took one of two directions. First, the troubled company was merged into another similar company which could take on its liabilities and commitments. This happened in the case of South Cement Company and the Fertiliser Company. Second, the Treasury paid the bill through raising the paid up capital of the company concerned at the expense of public sector funds, or the issuance of fresh government guarantees which enabled the company to borrow and forge on for the time being.

In other words, it was decided that the taxpayers and the national economy would pay the price of the rescue operation. This decision raised the stakes from the fate of the troubled companies to the future of the national economy itself. If the operation proves to be a success, the companies will be able to stand on their feet and become contributors to the Treasury, and assets to the national economy. If it fails, the consequences will not be limited to the troubled companies and their shareholders, but will trickle down to the whole economy.

It is obvious that this is quite a crucial decision to be taken by any government or society. The choice was between either leaving the ships of the troubled companies to their own fate, or taking them on board the ship of the national economy, so that we all travel on one boat and in one direction: Total success or total failure.

This difficult choice is similar to that of a soldier who is asked if he wants his infected hand to be chopped off so that he can live on, single-handed, or if he prefers to keep the infected hand and take the chance of its healing together with the risk of spreading the disease all over his entire body.

The important thing is that the choice is now behind us. The government is committed to absorbing losses, full protection, unconditional guarantees, repayment of installments etc. These are very heavy burdens to place on the back of the Treasury and the citizens, be they consumers or future investors.

Therefore, there is no alternative for success. Our backs are now to the wall, and the only open direction is to go forward and overcome the difficulties.

This puts great responsibility on the shoulders of the supported companies' management, whether they are new management or continuations of the previous management. This responsibility is not confined to their own companies but to the country as a whole. The companies must succeed and pay back the favour. Otherwise, the solution will amount to no more than the mere postponement of the problem and passing it forward at a larger scale to the next generation and administration.

Before the decision was made, we were debating over the best solutions. Now that we are all on board one ship, and the crucial decision has been made for us, the dialogue should shift to the best methods to enable the troubled companies to be turned around to profitability.

There is a limit to how much the Treasury can subsidise, and provide in cash and guarantees. There is also a limit to how much the consumers and potential investors can tolerate and pay for faults they did not commit, and for decisions and policies they were not allowed to participate in. The companies that received the rescue packages should rise up to the challenge and make full use of their last chance.

Righting a wrong

JORDANIAN ambassador to Turkey, Mr. Hani Tabbarah, did well to air publicly Jordan's complaint over the handling of the case against Adnan Musa Ammarin, the Jordanian translator at our embassy in Ankara who is one of the accused in the murder of Jordanian diplomat Ziad Al Sati.

The Jordanian government must have unsuccessfully tried every diplomatic channel, and used every possible means, quietly but unfavourably, before our ambassador in Ankara decided to go public with his displeasure over Turkey's handling of Mr. Ammarin's case.

Jordan has felt, for sometime now, that something fundamental had gone wrong with Turkey's investigation of the Sati murder. This feeling was transmitted to the Turkish authorities, according to information available to us, but Ankara did nothing to allay the concern that Ammarin was not and could not have been involved in the murder of his fellow Jordanian diplomat, Ziad Sati. It must have been a difficult situation for Jordan all along: a friendly state trying to find the killers of one of our diplomats ends up with convicting a Jordanian embassy translator who most probably has nothing whatsoever to do with the charges levelled against him. This is, in essence, what Ambassador Tabbarah was saying in his statement to the Turkish press on Friday. And it is, no doubt, an expression of the general feeling in Jordan about the whole matter.

Amman and Ankara enjoy the best of relations, as is well known, and based on this we would expect the two countries to solve outstanding issues amicably and as soon as possible. We do not honestly know how the Ammarin case can best be solved, given the complex circumstances surrounding it. But the onus is on the Turkish government to allay Jordanian fears that Mr. Ammarin has been victimised unnecessarily and that the evidence against him is flimsy.

This is an extremely important and sensitive issue which people here in Jordan and everywhere else in the world cannot possibly ignore. We do not profess to know all the details or the whole truth, but it is evident that something is fundamentally wrong. It is this wrong which we must right, and it is here where Turkey must play the major part.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: King visits Damascus

KING Hussein visited Damascus on Friday within the framework of Jordan's current diplomatic offensive to mobilise Arab countries' efforts in the face of common dangers and challenges. King Hussein's talks with President Assad reflect Jordan's commitment to the national causes and to re-building solidarity among Arab states, which is essential for the struggle against the Israelis. The Arab countries are in dire need of unity of ranks if they are to regain their usurped rights and to achieve a just and lasting peace in the Middle East. This move on the Arab scene, to be followed by one on the international scene is meant to keep the Palestine issue alive and to enlist the support of as many countries as possible for the Arab rights in their homeland. The move is designed primarily to convene an international conference which could achieve the aspired peace. The King, accompanied by senior Jordanian officials, is spearheading efforts designed to win support and confidence of all Arab and foreign nations which can participate positively towards the establishment of peace. Jordan, led by King Hussein, will continue these efforts at all levels because the international community now realises more than at any time in the past the need for a lasting peace. Indeed the new Jordanian move is a new chance for the Arabs to rally their ranks and get involved in the battle for peace; and other countries ought to extend support for Jordan's serious endeavours in this respect.

Al Dustour: Peace efforts intensify

KING Hussein's talks with President Assad of Syria constitute another stage in Jordan's long march towards convening the proposed international conference that can establish peace in the Middle East. The talks acquire added significance, coming at a crucial moment and in view of the fact that Syria and Jordan are directly involved in the conflict with Israel and shoulder grave national responsibilities. The Jordanian diplomatic offensive reaches its climax this week with visits to Europe and the United States by King Hussein and Jordanian officials who will try to acquire as much support as possible for convening an international conference to resolve the Arab-Israeli issue. For this reason, we view the King's working visit to Damascus Friday as an embodiment of joint action in the face of developments in the Arab region and aimed at helping the nation to regain its rights. We therefore, hope that the King's visit would further boost a drive by Arab states to achieve joint action and unify their ranks in the face of common challenges. As long as the Arabs have common interests and common goals, they ought to follow the example of Damascus and Amman in concerting their efforts for the benefit of the entire Arab Nation.

Sawt Al Shaab: Rallying for peace

JORDAN'S diplomatic offensive on the Arab and international levels has now assumed more serious dimensions and the call for convening an international conference on the Middle East has become more and more urgent. King Hussein's talks in Damascus Friday with President Assad of Syria represent an important link in this long series of contacts and consultations for the sake of concerning Arab countries' stands and efforts to confront the coming stage. This week, Jordan is intensifying this offensive to win more support for the proposed conference, encouraged and supported by the European Community's declaration that voiced support for the proposed conference. The King's keenness on pursuing this move on Arab and international levels clearly reflects Jordan's concern over the deadlock in the moves towards peace, and its desire to find a lasting solution for the Arab-Israeli conflict. The Middle East region is now at a crossroads: Whether to enter into the arena of peace negotiations or be pushed backwards towards more violence and more conflict. In a statement coinciding with the Jordanian moves, Foreign Minister Taher Al Masri Friday repeated Jordan's insistence that the international conference should group all the concerned parties and the U.N. Security Council member nations, and that it should not present a forum for direct negotiations. Prime Minister Zaid Rifai's visit to Washington this week will also fall in line with the Jordanian offensive and the talks with American officials will focus on persuading Washington to accept the idea of an international conference that can bring peace to the Middle East.

Thatcher given the warmest of welcomes, but differences remain

By Dave Mason
The Associated Press

MOSCOW — Crowds pressed around British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher in Moscow and the monastery city of Zagorsk, giving her a celebrity welcome. They kissed her hand in Soviet Georgia.

But on the major international issues — arms control, Afghanistan and human rights — there was no immediate sign of significant advance.

British sources said before Mrs. Thatcher's five-day visit, which concluded Wednesday, that no agreements were expected. And Mrs. Thatcher, at her news conference, did not pretend there were any firm accords.

Mrs. Thatcher recalled that

when she first met with Kremlin leader Mikhail Gorbachev in London in December 1984, she had said they could "do business together."

She said in Moscow, "We were able to do a lot of business."

But on arms control, opposing positions apparently remained static.

Mrs. Thatcher stressed that any agreement to eliminate medium-range missiles from Europe would have to be accompanied by a commitment by the Soviets to constrain their 9-to-1 edge on shorter range systems, and that there would have to be a firm promise in any medium-range treaty for talks to reduce or eliminate the shorter-range rockets.

The Soviets have resisted being

pinned down on these points at the Geneva negotiations with the United States. Mrs. Thatcher was unable to report any change after her talks with Gorbachev.

She said Gorbachev was making a link on cutting back strategic arms by 50 per cent with accompanying restraints on the U.S. "Star Wars" programme, formally known as the Strategic Defence Initiative.

Mrs. Thatcher opposes any such link and favours SDI, at least in the research stage. She tried to defuse the debate around Star Wars and a similar Soviet research effort by proposing a timetable for the research programmes and adherence to the 1972 anti-ballistic missile treaty for a fixed period.

Mrs. Thatcher said Gorbachev promised to consider her sugges-

tion, but gave no indication he would accept it. The United States, British sources said, had been made aware of Mrs. Thatcher's suggestion, but Washington apparently is reserving its position as well.

On Afghanistan, Mrs. Thatcher said she would support a neutral and non-aligned government there, but this entailed the immediate withdrawal of the some 115,000 Soviet troops.

Gorbachev said he favoured a political solution, but complained about "outside interference" in Afghanistan, obviously referring to Western support for the Afghan insurgents.

Again, this issue was not resolved in Mrs. Thatcher's talks.

On human rights, Mrs. Thatcher praised Gorbachev's release of

a number of dissidents, including Nobel Peace Prize winner Andrei Sakharov, with whom she had lunch at the British embassy.

British Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe presented a list of more than 100 people Britain wants released, British sources said.

Gorbachev, Mrs. Thatcher said, promised to continue to consider such cases "with care and attention" and make further positive decisions "where possible."

But no further moves on human rights were evident.

On an issue of major importance — the future of nuclear weapons — there was perhaps the strongest disparity in views between Mrs. Thatcher and Gorbachev.

Mrs. Thatcher repeated her view that nuclear weapons had deterred both nuclear and conventional conflict for 40 years, and that like it or not, nuclear arms were here to stay, even though she wanted them reduced.

Gorbachev, who has offered a plan to eliminate nuclear arms by the year 2000, told Mrs. Thatcher there was "evil" inherent in the nuclear deterrence theory.

He said deterrence implied "a policy of blackmail and threats" serving to fuel the arms race.

Summing up her talks, Mrs. Thatcher said they had led to a better understanding of her objectives and those of Gorbachev.

"I think when you have talks of that nature... you have an investment in the bank which makes for much better relations," she said.

China's economic reforms alive but in for rough road

By Jim Abrams
The Associated Press

BEIJING — The annual National People's Congress reaffirmed that market-oriented reforms will continue in this Communist nation. But economic and political pressures could diminish their vigour.

Premier Zhao Ziyang, in a state-of-the-nation address at the start of the recent congress, said reform remains the only path to modernisation for China's 1 billion people, still among the poorest in the world.

China "must unswervingly push ahead all-round reform of the economic structure, so as to

maintain steady, sustained economic growth," said Zhao, a leading architect of the radical new approach to Socialist economics initiated by senior leader Deng Xiaoping in 1979.

Zhao said China will continue to liberalise its banking system loosen controls over workers and wages, replace central planning with markets and encourage foreign investment.

The premier asserted that the widespread campaign against bourgeois liberalisation, the Chinese term for favouring Western-style political and economic ideas, will not be allowed to interfere with the reforms. But no new economic initiatives were revealed in speeches by Zhao and senior economic officials.

On the contrary, many comments indicated the reforms, which have more than doubled peoples' incomes since 1980, may be in for a rough road in 1987 because of serious economic problems.

A prime example was price reform.

Zhao said it was imperative to change the current "irrational" system that has kept some prices artificially low through controls and subsidies, discouraging production and burdening government finances.

However, he also said higher prices from loosened controls "give rise to the question of whether the state, the enterprises and the people can withstand the strains, both economically and psychologically."

Zhao said reform this year will be confined "to a very small number of products" and inflation must be held below last year's 6 per cent level.

The congress also made clear that high consumer demand and massive spending on construction, which have added a wild vitality to the reforms, must be curtailed.

"Financial and economic discipline have grown lax everywhere," said state planning commission minister Song Ping. "Construction has been overextended, consumer demand has grown too fast, prices of many commodities have risen in the absence of authorisation, administrative expenses... have increased too much and there has been widespread extravagance and waste."

Finance Minister Wang Bing-qian announced a \$2-billion budget deficit for 1986, small by international standards but alarming for the fiscally conservative Chinese. He demanded a 10 per cent cut in almost all government spending in 1987.

Rectifications of economic woes were couched in language aimed at pleasing conservatives who have campaigned against Western values and capitalism since an outburst of pro-democracy student unrest in December. Zhao said the Chinese people must strive for "thrift and long years of hard work instead of seeking after inordinate consumption." He said unreasonable

expectations of a richer life "may serve to corrupt social morality in that some people will be given to pleasure-seeking at the expense of their pioneering spirit."

Those who resist rapid change also won a victory when the congress standing committee shelved a bill that would give managers of state-run enterprises more authority: weakening the power of local party secretaries.

If Zhao and his mentor Deng have made concessions to traditional Marxists, they also appear to have weathered the worst of this winter's political storms. Zhao proclaimed success in curbing bourgeois liberalisation, "which was once quite widespread."

Deng, in a recent meeting with U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz, declared an end to the political troubles that culminated

in the dismissal of Communist Party chief Hu Yaobang in January for tolerating Western liberalism.

Zhao said efforts to "eliminate the pernicious influence of this erroneous ideological trend" will continue. But he added at length that such efforts must be confined to the party and must not be allowed to affect academic research, artistic exploration or the everyday lives of people.

Three leading intellectuals lost their party membership for espousing Western political thought and several liberal publications have been shut down, but the purges and persecution of past political campaigns have been absent.

Zhao chided both reformers and conservatives by saying: "Some people favouring reform and the open policy are not so



Deng Xiaoping ber-mind-ed enough, and that others who stress adherence to the four cardinal principles are not mentally emancipated enough."

The four principles include upholding Socialism, upholding Communist Party leadership, upholding the people's democratic dictatorship, and supporting Marxism-Leninism-Mao Tse-tung thought.

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A tale of two eras: Education past and present

By Dr. Ahmad Majdoubeh

MY previous two articles on English-language teaching compel me, inevitably, to address the larger question of education, which has recently become the focus for intense investigations by government officials, academics, and press columnists. The issue is indeed vital and complex, and one could tackle it on several fronts: The philosophy of education, the teaching methods, the administration policies, the syllabi, the teachers, etc. Clearly, these matters have to be studied and openly debated, for it is only natural and healthy to do so. We hope that specialists at our higher education institutions, who have been significantly but recently conducting advanced research on these topics, will get involved with the actual process, and not just be content with publishing their findings in anonymous journals and magazines for promotion and prestige.

There is, however, a more urgent aspect of the problem which ought to receive our immediate attention: namely, the deterioration of the teaching environment itself. This factor, which does not require much effort or research to detect and which causes us real concern, has been a bit neglected. The issue is perhaps best illustrated by a sketch of the state of our schools before and during the boom era.

Once upon a time, teaching in Jordan was different and, I would venture to say, even better. True, the approach was a little old-fashioned, the teachers were generally dictators, and the students were mostly parrots. These are, undeniably, formidable problems which have to be resolved by all means (and to tell the truth, they have been slowly, but steadily, disappearing). Nevertheless, there were also positive features and admirable examples.

The teacher, however temperamental and conceited, was serious and highly committed. He beat his lazy students and spat in their faces (acts which we cannot condone), but he also prepared his

lessons diligently, was present physically and spiritually in class and outside it, took an active part in formal and informal activities, was courteous to excellent students, and — most important — felt the value of what he was doing. The headmaster, god-like and arrogant in some respect, was nonetheless a man of great integrity. He placed the welfare of his empire above and beyond everything else. He kept close to teachers and students alike and showed as much interest in cleanliness as in the teaching process. Likewise, the ministry supervisor — who attended classes, talked to students, and inspected the teachers' notes — was a very qualified man. He took himself, and was taken, seriously. To be sure, there were lazy and incompetent teachers and headmasters, but the vast majority was outstanding.

The seventies and eighties, the oil age, shattered quite abruptly and ruthlessly the whole picture and shifted things 180 degrees in the opposite direction. The able teachers, headmasters, and supervisors vanished almost magically. Some retired, some staid to grow old and frustrated, but most quit, seeking more profitable jobs in the private sector or the Gulf. The people replacing them — who were mainly rejects from other places; persons with poor scholastic grades, poor moral values, and poor characters — were of a very different breed. They went to school to read the papers, gossip, laugh at the few hard-working colleagues, complain about life and curse their fate, negotiate private lessons, humiliate their students, and take off for other part-time jobs. Excepting the work of a few devoted individuals, there was utter laxity and laziness. You could not (and I say this with a grain of salt) trust most to peel a potato, let alone educate the generation. What added to the spread of such irresponsibility was the feeling, among these people, that they are eminently safe.

I do not merely want to paint a dismal picture here. The point that I would like to stress, by way of pinpointing the problem, is that until recently reform could not have been possible. The Ministry of Education, who knew very well what was going on at its schools, was in no position to do anything. It could not exercise any effective form of pressure on the teachers or headmasters, and understandably so. The latter were ready to quit without notice. As a market, the ministry was not attractive, and it spent most of its energies either hiring new employees or persuading the old ones to stay.

Today, the Gulf days are over and things are remarkably different. Qualified applications are begging for teaching positions: Some even wait a whole year or two to get hired. Naturally then, reform is not only possible, but in fact a must. The ministry is called upon to tighten the grip. Crown Prince Hassan's recent tour of a number of public schools, which struck terror in the hearts of the guilty teachers and headmasters (the fact that it made them feel their guilt is a great achievement) and brought hope to the hearts of those who would like to restore the teaching profession to its past glory, points to the exact nature of the solution and the means of its implementation. Yes, we need to examine our teaching strategies and to reassess the theoretical fundamentals, but we also need, first and foremost, to evoke the sense of reliability and commitment in our school instructors and administrators, for without such sense all efforts to improve the situation would be in vain. What we are asking for is not a radical change; what we want is simple: We expect people to do their job — no more, no less.

I have great faith in our education system and in our individual, and despite what I have said, teaching in Jordan (in theory and in practice) remains the best in the Arab World. We merely hope to push it a step ahead.

'Black skull' fossil resists placement in man's family tree

By Malcolm Ritter
The Associated Press

PORT JEFFERSON, New York — Scientists continue to disagree on what the "black skull," a recently discovered 2.5-million-year-old fossil from an ape-man, means for man's family tree, researchers say.

Scientists met for several days last week to discuss *robust australopithecines*, ape-man that diverged more than 2 million years ago from the evolutionary lineage leading to modern man.

The black skull, named for its contrast to the brown or yellow of most fossils, was found in August 1985 in Lake Turkana, Kenya. The discovery was announced in August by Richard Leakey, director of the National Museums of Kenya, Alan Walker of the Johns Hopkins University of Medicine in Baltimore, and others.

The skull showed that the beast to which it belonged had an ape-like, forward-thrusting face and a small brain, less than a third the size of a human's. Its discoverers called it an early specimen of *australopithecus boisei*, an east African ape-man.

But at a news conference last Wednesday, William Kimbel of the Institute of Human Origins in Berkeley, California, said no consensus has developed about whether the skull represents that species or another. Its features are different enough from previous *boisei* finds that it may be

from another species, he said. Theories about what the skull means for man's family tree now fall into two main divisions, said Fred Grine, assistant professor of anthropology and anatomical sciences at the State University of New York at Stony Brook.

The "trunk" of both hypothesized family trees includes the oldest recorded ape-man, an upright-walking beast called *Australopithecus afarensis*, which lived more than 3 million years ago. The best known specimen is "Lucy," discovered in Ethiopia in 1975.

The difference between the theories lies in what happened after that, in a dimly understood period between 2 million and 3 million years ago. Both theories Grine cited suggest two branches emanating from *afarensis*.

Under one theory, one branch goes to the boisei, including the black skull. The other branch goes to a beast called *australopithecus africanus*, then splits again, one arm giving rise to the South African ape-man called *australopithecus robustus*, and the other arm forming the direct ancestors of modern man.

The other theory, which Grine supports, says the black skull represents its own species, which in turn gave rise to the South African *Robustus* and the East African boisei. That lineage is one arm of the tree from the old *afarensis*; the other arm runs to africanus and on to mankind's direct ancestors.



Hans Klein: W. German development aid minister

By Kark Zawadzky

BONN (DaD) — Hans Klein, newly-appointed Development Aid Minister in Chancellor Kohl's Federal cabinet, feels responsible for foreign policy activity calls "in addition to factual knowledge, legal awareness, imagination and empathy for the mentality of other nations, first and foremost for an unerring sense of reality." Political observers feel this credo summarizes both the results of long experience in foreign affairs and a fair amount of unwitting self-analysis.

Klein, 55, will certainly now be able to put these qualities to even better use — as successor to Jürgen Warnke as Federal Minister of Economic Cooperation. Herr Warnke, in charge of development aid since 1982, has moved to the Ministry of Transport.

Both men are members of the CDU's Bavarian ally, the Christian Social Union. Hans Klein has been a CDU member of the Bundestag since 1976, serving for the past four years as CDU/CSU foreign policy spokesman in the Bonn parliament.

Born in Mährisch-Schönberg in 1931, Klein studied economics and learnt journalism. He worked for, and was later editor of, a German-English weekly. From 1956 he worked as a Bonn correspondent. In 1959 he transferred to the diplomatic service, working as Press attaché at the German embassies in Jordan, Syria, Iraq and Indonesia. In 1965 he returned to Bonn as Press officer to Chancellor Erhard.

He gained a wider reputation as press officer of the Munich Olympics from 1968 to 1972. He returned to Bonn in 1976 after gaining the Munich (Centre) constituency for the CSU. In the Bundestag he served on the foreign affairs committee and the cultural diplomacy sub-committee. Hans Klein, known to his friends as "Johnny" and recognisable by the bow-tie that is his sartorial hallmark, enjoys the confidence of CSU leader Franz Josef Strauss, the Bavarian Premier, and has long been held in high esteem by Chancellor Kohl. An experienced parliamentarian, he can both say just where he stands and do so in a civil manner.

Coming soon: The five billion baby

By John Rowley

LONDON — Soon, a newborn baby will become the five billionth living person on planet earth. It is impossible to be precise about this landmark event because many countries do not have reliable statistics. But, according to the United Nations Population Division, the five billion mark will probably be passed between April and July this year.

The United Nations Fund for Population Activities has decided to mark the occasion by declaring July 11 as "The Day of the Five Billion." It hopes to encourage some serious thinking about the significance of the event.

This particular milestone in the growth of the human species certainly reflects the rapidity with which our numbers are now growing. It took 130 years from around 1800 to 1927 for the world's population to grow from one billion to two. But it took only 13 years, from 1974, for the fifth billion to be added. The world is expected to have 6 billion in 1999, 7 billion by 2010 and 8 billion by 2022.

In fact the peak rate of growth is past. After speeding up from an annual growth rate of 0.5 per cent in the last century to 2 per cent around 1970, population is now growing at about 1.6 per cent a year — a rate which should fall to 1.4 by 2000 and to under 1 per cent by 2025, if median projections prove correct.

However, because total numbers are growing all the time, the present annual addition of 80 million people is still likely to exceed 75 million in 2025 — or the equivalent of a new Mexico every year for the next 38 years.

One of the factors fueling this continuing growth in numbers is the high proportion of young people, who will become the parents of tomorrow. About half the world's population is under 24 and over a billion fall into the age bracket of 15 to 24.

The world's five billion are also on the move. Migration from country to the town, added to the high rate of natural growth in the cities of the Third World, means that the biggest ever increase in urban numbers is about to take place. Today, four out of 10 are city dwellers. By 2010, more than half the world's 7 billion people will be city folk.

But what do all these statistics signify? Can nature cope with another world of acquisitive humans on top of the existing one, before numbers finally level out? What chance is there that population can stop growing nearer to 8 billion than 14, and does it matter?

There are no clear answers to such questions. Some economists, such as Professor Peter Bauer of the London School of Economics and Julian Simon in the United States, argue that the "population scare" of the 1960s was grossly overdone. They see no clear correlation between population density and economic well-being and argue that a growing population can, in fact, act as a spur to economic growth.

But such minority views have been overshadowed not only by long-established warning voices, including that of Lester Brown, president of the Washington-based Worldwatch Institute, Professor Paul Ehrlich and past and present presidents of the World Bank, but also by a consensus of world leaders. Such a group met at the International Conference on Population in Mexico City in 1984, while leaders of African

states met in Arusha in the same year.

In his latest State of the World 1987 report, Brown points out that while some regions of the world are well on the way to stabilising population growth, others appear to be stuck in a "demographic trap". The first group, comprising the developed world plus China and the rest of East Asia, has a population of about 2.3 billion. It is growing at less than one per cent a year, and is getting better off.

The second group is made up of five regions — Southeast Asia, Latin America, the Indian sub-continent, the Middle East and Africa — growing at a rate of 2.5 per cent a year. "For many countries in this group rapid population growth and falling incomes are now reinforcing each other," says Brown. Many are losing their cover and topsoil at a disastrous rate, while increasing the pressure on such resources.

Some countries in this group, such as Thailand, Indonesia and Uruguay, seem good candidates to follow China into the small family category. Others seem to be stuck for a fourth decade in a situation where death rates remain relatively high, while birth rates are higher still.

The problems of sub-Saharan Africa, with declining per capita food production and a population growth rate of over 3 per cent a year, have been particularly influential in refocusing attention on the inter-related issues of population, environment and development.

Countries such as Ghana or Kenya, which have long been concerned about populations which could double in 20 years, have recently been joined by others, including Nigeria and Zimbabwe, in developing comprehensive population policies. In this they have the support not only of the U.N. Fund for Population Activities but also of the World Bank which views population assistance as its "highest priority" in Africa.

The other region of the world which continues to give cause for concern is South Asia, a region with over a billion people set to reach almost 1.5 billion by the end of the century. Despite years of endeavour, contraceptive practice in Pakistan and Nepal is limited to about 7 per cent of couples. In India and Bangladesh family planning is more common, but population growth rates remain at around 2.4 per cent. It is no coincidence that it is in these two regions, Africa and South Asia, that the vast majority of maternal and child deaths take place. No less than 80 per cent of the 500,000 women who die each year through causes related to childbirth and pregnancy live in these two regions of the world. Help in timing and spacing births could significantly reduce this death toll among women and children. And if the risks of infant deaths could be cut, the prospects for family planning programmes would improve.

Commenting on this recently, the President of the World Bank, Mr. Barber Conable, said: "The effort that poor women make themselves to take charge of their productive and reproductive lives is what matters the most." But the help that they get to do this may well determine whether the world's population will double again, or not — People features.

John Rowley is Editor of People, the international population and development magazine.

Surrogate motherhood ruling ends battle over lifestyles

By Deborah Zabarenko
Reuters

NEW YORK — The ruling by a New Jersey judge on March 31 denying a surrogate mother the right to keep the child she bore ended a legal battle between two contrasting styles of life.

Custody of the one-year-old girl, known throughout the court hearing as "Baby M," was given to her father and his wife.

Her natural mother, who had agreed to bear the child by artificial insemination, refused to give her up in violation of a surrogate parenthood contract with the couple.

The backgrounds of the main characters in the case were explored during the trial, and family judge Harvey Sorkow of Bergen County, New Jersey, made their different lifestyles a central theme of his ruling.

The two families were brought together by the International Fertility Centre, a New York-based agency that matches potential surrogate mothers with childless couples.

Mary Beth Whitehead, 29, described in the ruling as a "high school dropout, was depicted by the Fertility Centre as having

"the perfect surrogate profile." Married with two children, she was sure she did not want to add to her family. Her husband had a vasectomy after the birth of their second child.

"Her application said she wanted to be a surrogate mother to 'give the most loving gift of happiness to an unfortunate couple, plus the financial benefit to my family would be a rewarding experience'."

She promised not to form a bond with the child, not to breast-feed her and to surrender her soon after birth.

She found she could not keep these promises, accept the \$10,000 fee or give up the baby, whom she named Sara. The Sterns call her Melissa.

The judge relied heavily on comparisons of the two couples' backgrounds in reaching his decision.

The ruling said Mrs. Whitehead, one of eight children, dropped out of high school in her second year, married Richard Whitehead and soon afterwards started a family.

The marriage, according to the ruling, was difficult. Richard, 37, suffered from a drinking problem

and had difficulty keeping a job. There are two mortgages on their suburban New Jersey home. Mrs. Whitehead once worked as a dancer in a bar to supplement the family income and the couple once declared bankruptcy.

Sorkow said Mrs. Whitehead was the driving force in her household, describing her as "manipulative, impulsive and exploitive... a woman without empathy."

He said she lied when she felt threatened, drew her two older children into the media spotlight and smothered baby M with her attention.

"She is a good mother for and to her older children. She would not be a good custodian for Baby M," Sorkow said.

In contrast, the Sterns, both aged 41, were described in glowing terms.

"The Sterns have a private, quiet and unremarkable life which augurs well for a stable household environment," the judge wrote.

Mr. Stern was the child of survivors of Nazi persecution who came to the United States after World War II. He now had no relatives except his wife and the

judge said he had a natural desire to have a child of his own.

The Sterns met in college. Both have doctorates, he in biochemistry and she in human genetics. Mrs. Stern is a pediatrician.

They put off children until Mrs. Stern finished her pediatric training, which would keep her from devoting attention to a child, and her earnings after she qualified would make the family more secure.

This impressed the judge, who wrote: "With the health and medical education of Mrs. Stern and the scientific training of Mr. Stern, the child's health will not be jeopardised."

He added: "Mr. and Mrs. Stern have presented as credible, sincere and truthful people. They have shown no difficulty in coping with crisis. It may be anticipated that because the child is unique and at risk, crisis for the next several years will be part of their lives."

Harold Cassidy, Mrs. Whitehead's lawyer, said after the ruling that the battle over character and class ignored the moral question of the surrogate debate, which he found "extremely disappointing."

W. Europe moves to curb surrogate births

By Robert Glass
The Associated Press

LONDON — A commercial surrogate births are rare in Western Europe, but several countries have taken steps to outlaw the trend before it becomes a common practice.

Britain has banned commercial surrogacy and the issue has provoked a vigorous national debate. In other countries, motherhood by proxy consists mostly of private deals with no legal standings, officials say.

West Germany, Norway, Sweden and The Netherlands are considering surrogacy bans, and Western European justice ministers are to discuss the issue at a conference on artificial reproduction scheduled May 4-5 in Brussels, Belgium.

Frits Hondius, deputy director of legal affairs for the 21-nation Council of Europe, which promotes European unity, said sur-

rogacy has not yet become a significant issue on the continent, although well-publicised court cases in the United States and Britain have drawn attention to the matter.

Surrogate motherhood has been in the public eye in the United States because of a custody battle between William Stern and Mary Beth Whitehead, who had agreed to be artificially inseminated and had pledged to turn over the child. When she changed her mind and fled with the child, Stern and his wife sued. The case is still under review.

"It's not something people generally are very concerned about," Hondius said in a telephone interview from the council's headquarters in Strasbourg, France.

He added that governments were more worried about the lack of legal controls over infertility treatments, particularly some forms of embryo research.

On surrogate motherhood, there appears to be a European consensus against agencies such as those in the United States that arrange for childless couples to pay a woman to bear a baby for them, Hondius said.

"In Europe, I think there is a general feeling that whatever you allow, it should not be for profit," said U.S. and British cases, West German Health Minister Rita Süssmuth said in January that she would introduce a bill in parliament this year banning surrogate births and advertisements dealing with it.

A similar bill is expected to be approved by the Norwegian parliament this spring.

In Sweden and France, surrogacy is prohibited under adoption regulations. In addition, a Swedish government-appointed inquiry has proposed legislation banning surrogacy as "a doubtful bargaining with children."

Although surrogacy is not seen

as a major issue in The Netherlands, the Dutch Health Council, a government advisory body, has called for a ban on surrogacy agencies to prevent the practice from becoming commercialised.

Dr. Benja Albeda, a Rotterdam gynecologist, said there are no official figures on surrogate births because most are arranged privately. But he estimated at least 50 babies a year are born to surrogate mothers in The Netherlands.

In Switzerland, a biweekly magazine, *Der Schweizerische Beobachter*, has launched a bid for a national referendum on genetic engineering that would ban commercial surrogacy.

Under Swiss law, it would be several years before such a referendum would come to a vote. Austria has no restrictions on surrogate births, but authorities are trying to establish legal standards in the event such cases arise.

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Everton replaces Liverpool at top of English League

LONDON (R) — Everton replaced Liverpool as leader of the English soccer First Division when it ended Chelsea's run of four victories by beating it 2-1 on its own ground.

With the defending champion out of action because it meets Arsenal in the football league cup final today, Everton took advantage of the chance to regain the initiative in the championship race, but was forced to dig into its reserves of character and determination to do it.

Central defender Dave Watson put Everton in command with a 23rd minute opening goal, but Chelsea fought back to equalise through former England striker Kerry Dixon in the 73rd minute.

Everton, with influential midfielder Kevin Sheedy back in the team after recovering from a cartilage operation, was shaken, but regained the lead within five minutes through utility player Alan Harper and then hung on to take all three points.

Victory lifted Everton level with Liverpool on 67 points with a game in hand, its superior goal difference putting it narrowly ahead of its city rival in the title chase.

Tottenham, with four matches in hand on Liverpool and two on Everton, made the most of its chance to make up ground on the leader by crushing Norwich 3-0, prolific striker Clive Allen scoring a hat-trick to take his tally for the season to 43 — which drew him level with Jimmy Greaves' previous record total for the club.

Allen, who had failed to score in his four previous matches, hit his treble in 11 minutes — the

goals coming after 75, 81 and 86 minutes — as Norwich's unbeaten run of 15 league games came to a resounding end.

Spurs, who meets Watford in the F.A. Cup semifinals next week, moved up to fourth in the table, overhauling north London rival Arsenal who, like Liverpool, was without a fixture.

Third-placed Luton retained its position, but did nothing to enhance its outside hopes for the title when it was held to a goalless draw on its synthetic surface by visiting Wimbledon, the newly-promoted London club who pulled off a shock victory at Liverpool a week ago.

Nottingham Forest was also held to a 0-0 draw by Coventry, who meets Leeds in next Saturday's other F.A. Cup semifinal.

The most exciting matches of the afternoon were at Charlton, where the relegation threatened home team beat Watford 4-3, and at Manchester United where a last-minute goal by England captain Bryan Robson secured a 3-2 victory over visiting Oxford United.

Charlton's win was a vital one for its hopes of avoiding the drop, particularly as fellow struggler Newcastle beat Leicester 2-0.

The most predictable result, however, was at Aston Villa where tension led to a goalless stalemate in the match between 19th placed Villa and bottom club Manchester City.

Teltscher upsets Connors in Chicago tennis tourney

CHICAGO (R) — Eliot Teltscher beat second seed Jimmy Connors for the first time in 16 tries in a quarter-final match at the \$315,000 Chicago Men's Grand Prix Tennis Tournament.

The unseeded Teltscher scored a 6-3, 6-1 victory over his fellow American by making only 11 unforced errors to 28 for Connors.

In the semifinals, Teltscher plays third seed Tim Mayotte, a 6-2, 6-3 winner over fellow American Peter Fleming.

"That's probably the best I've ever played," Teltscher said after the match.

"I've been in a coma all week,"

Connors said. "I came here eager to play but I wasn't really in there. Maybe I need a little break. I've been playing a lot."

Connors, who has not won a singles title since October of 1984, needed three sets in his two earlier matches this week.

In another quarter-final surprise, unseeded Bill Scanlon of the United States got his second upset victory of the tournament when he defeated sixth-seeded countryman Scott Davis 6-3, 6-3. Scanlon, 30, made only six unforced errors to Davis' 18, and made his first serve 68 per cent of the time.

Liverpool favoured against Arsenal in Littlewoods Cup

WEMBLEY, England (AP) — Liverpool goes for its third English soccer title in 11 months today when it meets Arsenal in the Littlewoods Cup final before 100,000 fans at Wembley Stadium.

Last season's league titlist and F.A. (Football Association) Cup winner is clear favourite to win the first ever Littlewoods Cup, replacement for the Milk (formerly League) Cup.

Since it first entered the tournament in 1978, Liverpool has figured in six of the ten finals, losing only once. With striker Ian Rush probably playing at the home of English soccer for the last time before his move to Italy's Juventus, the Merseyside team also will be out to make it a final to remember for the Welshman.

Liverpool faces an Arsenal side which has slumped since the turn of the year after dominating the first half of the league season.

The long-time standings leader has won only one of its last seven games, slipping to fourth in the standings and tumbling out of the F.A. Cup at the quarterfinal stage.

The north London side also has several youngsters who will not have sampled the special Wembley atmosphere, whereas Liverpool's line-up will be packed with players who have graced the lush turf.

Arsenal's manager George Graham has come under fire for not plugging into the transfer market to strengthen his side during its recent slump.

Announcing his line-up for the

final, the Scot also remained loyal to players whose form has nosedived since Christmas.

"I think it was an easy team to choose," he said. "The majority of the players have been playing all season."

"But the team has not been picked on emotion. It's been picked to get us a result," Graham said.

Despite fielding comparative newcomers such as David Rocastle, Tony Adams and Martin Hayes, Arsenal still can call on the experience of England international fullbacks Viv Anderson and Kenny Sansom and Irish defender David O'Leary, as well as the genius of Scotland's Charlie Nicholas and the enthusiasm of another England international, Steve Williams.

Arsenal's problems have stemmed from lack of cover for the front-line players. In this department, Liverpool has scored heavily.

Whenever player-manager Kenny Dalglish has been forced by injuries to change his line-up, he has been able to call on experienced internationals without having to take off his own tracksuit.

Players such as Scotland's John Wark and Ireland's John Aldridge have been unable to command regular places in the line-up.

Although Ireland international Jim Beglin and Mark Lawrence are both sidelined for the rest of the season, Dalglish still has an abundance of players to choose from and has delayed his final line-up until shortly before the game.

Mountain climber falls to death fleeing assailants

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa (AP) — A climber fell more than 300 metres to his death after he and his companion were attacked at their campsite high in the Drakensberg Mountains, authorities said Saturday.

The companion, Lourens Lombard, escaped and wandered barefoot through the rugged mountain area for three days before reaching the resort where they began the hike, police said.

Police said the two white climbers were attacked by a group of blacks early Tuesday. The dead man, identified as Philip Van Rensburg of Pretoria, apparently fell off a cliff while trying to flee from the stone-throwing assailants.

Van Rensburg's body was lifted from a deep gorge Saturday by an air force helicopter.

The two climbers, reportedly on their first hike on the Drakensberg, had pitched their camp near the summit of a 3,145-metre (13,600-foot) peak called the Saddle, part of the escarpment that runs along the border of South Africa's Natal Province and the country of Lesotho.

Lombard, who suffered head and back injuries, told police that when he returned to the campsite after the attack, Van Rensburg had disappeared and all their belongings had been taken.

Maori Venture upset winner of Grand National Steeplechase

LIVERPOOL, England (AP) — Maori Venture, with a second-time jockey and a 92-year-old owner, pulled away in the stretch to post an upset victory in the 149th Grand National Steeplechase Saturday.

Jockey Steve Knight, riding for the second time in the gruelling 4½-mile race, guided the 28-to-1 shot into the lead past front-runner Lean An Aghaidh just after the last of Aintree's 30 jumps and moved to a five-length victory worth \$65,152 (\$104,243) for owner Jim Joel.

The Tearevich took second by four lengths from Lean An Aghaidh, with pre-race favourite West Tip, last year's winner, fourth.

"I still can't believe it," said Knight, who chose the winner to ride over Tracya Special, his only previous Grand National mount. "We had some good grooves to day.... Mr. Joel deserves this."

Joel, who has been entering horses in the Grand National for some 60 years without a winner before Saturday, was not at the race. Knight said the veteran owner was vacationing in South Africa.

The lone U.S. entry, 1984 Maryland Hunt Cup winner Bewley's Hill, fell at the sixth jump, the dangerous Bechers Brook.

SPORTS IN BRIEF

4 top women vie in tennis charity

NORFOLK, Virginia (AP) — Four of the world's top female tennis players will compete in a unique doubles exhibition Sunday to raise money for women athletes. Martina Navratilova and Billie Jean King will take on Chris Evert Lloyd and Pam Shriver at the Scope Arena in the \$225,000 Challenge of the Champions. The match will be played under a format in which the winning team will be determined by how much money it earns rather than by how many games it wins. All money earned by the teams will go to the Women's Sports Foundation, an organization founded by King in 1974 to promote female athletes.

Hill consortium saves Fulham club

LONDON (R) — Former Fulham player Jimmy Hill has come to the rescue of the endangered English Third Division soccer club. His consortium has bought out the name and the players' contracts from current chairman David Bulstrode, it was announced. Hill and Bulstrode have also reached agreement for Fulham to play on at its Craven Cottage Ground next season "and for as long as possible."

Search for yachtsman called off

MELBOURNE, Australia (AP) — The search for a competitor in the Melbourne to Osaka Yacht Race who is missing and believed drowned has been called off, race officials confirmed Saturday. Colin Akhurst and fellow New Zealander Digby Taylor were thrown into the sea Thursday when their sloop Castaway Fiji sank 593 kilometres east of Townsville, off Queensland. John Durham, spokesman for the Federal Sea Safety and Surveillance Centre, said the search for Akhurst was called off at dusk Friday. He said the centre did not plan to send searchers out Saturday. Taylor was rescued by another yacht in the race after spending 14 hours in the water.

Polish squad bans striker for drinking

WARSAW (R) — Polish striker Marek Konarek has been banned from the national team until Dec. 15 for turning up drunk for a training session, the Polish Soccer Union said. Konarek had already been fined and given a three-month ban, suspended for six months, by his club Katowice for the same incident. Konarek was dropped from the Polish side preparing for a friendly against Norway last month and ordered to leave the Wroclaw training camp because he had been drinking.

All-Africa Games to introduce hockey

NAIROBI (R) — This year's All-Africa Games will feature hockey for the first time following decisions by 10 countries to send teams for the sport, Henry Singh, secretary of the Kenya Hockey Union, said. Singh told reporters that Egypt, Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, Nigeria, Seychelles, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe will send hockey teams for the August 1-12 games in Nairobi. The African Hockey Federation decided to accept these entries at a recent meeting in Nairobi, he added. Singh said hockey had not featured in the previous three All-Africa Games because organisers had been unable to muster 10 teams, the minimum necessary for a new sport to be introduced.

Australia II becomes museum piece

FREMANTLE, Australia (R) — Australia II, the yacht with the winged keel that in 1983 broke the United States' 132-year grip on the America's Cup, was bought by the government to be exhibited in a museum. The government paid the final 250,000 Australian dollar (\$177,000) instalment of the two million Australian dollar (\$1.4 million) deal to Australia II's syndicate, headed by Perth millionaire Alan Bond. Australia II defeated the New York Yacht Club entry Liberty, off Newport, Rhode Island, in 1983, ending the longest winning streak in sporting history. The club had held the America's Cup since 1851.

Mandlikova withdraws from tourney with pulled muscle

PISCATAWAY New Jersey (R)

— Top-seeded Hana Mandlikova withdrew from the \$150,000 U.S. Women's Indoor Tennis Championships because of a pulled stomach muscle.

Mandlikova was to play fourth-seeded Lori McNeil of the United States in a semifinal match Friday. McNeil now advances by walkover to the final against second-seeded Helena Sukova of Czechoslovakia, a 6-3, 7-5 winner

over unseeded American Gigi Fernandez.

Mandlikova first injured her stomach muscle in the final last Sunday in Washington, where she beat American Barbara Potter, and the muscle had swollen to the size of a tennis ball Thursday night after her quarterfinal win over Sylvia Hanika of West Germany. Mandlikova's coach Betty Stove said.

Stove telephoned tournament officials Friday and told them the Czechoslovak star would not be able to play. Mandlikova could not be reached for comment. Sukova jumped out to a 4-1 lead by forcing repeated volley errors from the aggressive 23-year-old Fernandez.

Fernandez broke the 22-year-old Czechoslovak on three unforced errors to take a 2-1 lead in the second set, but lost her own serve in the next game.

American NBA round up

Dallas defeats Warriors for 50 wins

DALLAS (AP) — The Mavericks defeated Golden State 136-116 to give the seventh-year franchise its first 50-win season in the National Basketball Association.

In other games Friday night, it was Boston 119, Detroit 115 in overtime; New Jersey 113, Philadelphia 109; Atlanta 122, New York 89; Washington 126, Chicago 118; Denver 116, San Antonio 106; Los Angeles Lakers 127, Portland 121.

Rolando Blackman led Dallas with 33 points, Mark Aguirre added 20 and Roy Tarpley had a career-high 17 points and 14 rebounds.

Rod Higgins and Larry Smith led the Warriors with 22 and 21 points, respectively. Guard

Sleepy Floyd added a season-high 18 assists.

In New Jersey, the Nets gave Philadelphia's Julius Erving a rude sendoff in his last game against the Nets as Orlando Woolridge scored 33 points.

Erving, who played three seasons with the Nets when it was in the American Basketball Association, had his Nets uniform number retired in ceremonies before the game. Then he scored six points on 2-for-12 field-goal shooting.

Charles Barkley led the 76ers with 26 points, while Buck Williams had 22 points and 15 rebounds for the Nets.

In Boston, Larry Bird led Boston with 31 points, while Kevin McHale had 25 and Dennis John-

son 24. The Pistons was led by Isiah Thomas with 25 points and Adrian Dantley with 20.

In Phoenix, the Suns defeated Utah as Larry Nance had 28 points and Mike Sanders came off the bench to hit eight of nine shots from the field and score 18 points.

Karl Malone had a game-high 34 points for Utah.

In Portland, Magic Johnson had 35 points, 11 assists and 10 rebounds as Los Angeles rallied to beat Portland for the 11th time in their last 12 meetings.

The host Blazers got 25 points from Clyde Drexler and 23 from Steve Johnson.

In Washington, Jay Vincent and Jeff Malone scored 33 points each as Washington edged visiting Chicago, knocking the Bulls into eighth place in the Eastern Conference.

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From 6.00 PM
1.00 AM

Thursday
Friday
Sunday
From 4.00 PM
1.00 AM

Rese: 605715

Cinema Tel: 677420
CONCORD
S.A.S
Performances 3.30, 6.00, 8.30, 10.30

Cinema Tel: 625153
RAINBOW
THE MONEY PIT
Performances 3.15, 6.30, 8.30, 10.30

Cinema Tel: 675573
OPERA
MAIN BALWAAN
Performances 3.30, 6.15, 8.30, 10.30

Cinema Tel: 677420
PLAZA
RUNNING SCARED
Performances 3.30, 6.00, 8.30, 10.30

Cinema Tel: 632198
RAGHADAN
MANIAC
Performances 12.15, 3.00, 5.00, 7.45

EC ministers begin talks on bolstering EMS float

KNOCKE-HEIST, Belgium (R) — European Community (EC) chiefs began talks here Saturday on strengthening Europe's joint currency float, a Belgian finance ministry official said.

The informal one-day meeting at this Belgian coastal resort took place behind closed doors amid uncertainty over whether an international agreement to stabilise the ailing dollar will work.

Belgian Finance Minister Mark Eyskens said a period of calm on world currency markets is essential so that Europe can reinforce the European Monetary System (EMS) and make it more resilient against future exchange rate swings.

The float, which holds eight EC currencies within narrow fluctuation bands, has come under severe strain in the past year as the dollar's slide on foreign exchanges has sent funds pushing into the EMS's dominant currency, the West German mark.

In February leading Western industrialised countries agreed in Paris to stabilise exchange rates around present levels.

But fears of an imminent trade war between the United States and Japan over micro-chip products sent the dollar to record lows against the yen earlier last week, raising doubts about whether the Paris accords can work.

The EC ministers and central bank chiefs will have before them proposals for reinforcing the EMS that have been drawn up by the Community's monetary committee and its committee of central bank governors.

The proposals were ordered in January after the mark's surge against weaker EMS currencies forced ministers to undertake a major realignment of parities in the system for the second time within nine months.

Mr. Eyskens told Reuters in an interview that he was hoping the proposals would serve as the basis for an open debate on the future of the eight-year-old EMS.

The meeting is being held to coordinate the EC's position on international monetary issues and the problem of Third World debt ahead of this week's spring meetings of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank in Washington.

The committees are due to propose technical measures to improve the way the EMS functions and address the question of how it should be reinforced at the institutional level.

Supporters of the EMS complain that its development has been held up by reluctance among EC governments to relinquish sovereignty in monetary affairs to a kind of European central bank that its founding fathers originally envisaged would be set up to manage the float.

Mr. Eyskens said EC Commission President Jacques Delors will report on what needs to be done if plans to liberalise all capital movements in the 12-nation bloc by 1992 are to go ahead.

AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET

AMMAN (J.T.) — The following table summarises trading activities at the Amman Financial Market during the week starting Saturday, March 28, '87 and ending Wednesday, Apr. 1, '87. (Figures in Jordanian dinars).

Name of company	Number of shares	Volume of trade	Opening price	Closing price	Par value
Banking and financial institutions					
Industrial Development Bank	1200	1504	1.270	1.250	1.000
Petra Bank	13320	31844	2.350	2.300	1.000
Jordan Islamic Bank	600	1247	2.080	2.070	1.000
Jordan Kuwait Bank	7011	11638	1.660	1.700	1.000
Jordan Gulf Bank	6010	7898	1.350	1.310	1.000
Housing Bank	350	573	1.620	1.620	1.000
Arab Jordan Investment Bank	2000	4300	2.100	2.150	1.000
Cairo Amman Bank	30	870	29.250	29.000	5.000
Bank of Jordan	3269	60098	19.000	18.150	5.000
Arab Bank	2120	262499	128.000	123.900	10.000
Jordan National Bank	21682	55316	2.510	2.600	1.000
Jordan Finance House for Development	50670	41233	0.800	0.810	1.000
Islamic Investment House	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordan Investment and Finance Corporation	54922	67219	1.710	1.710	1.000
Finance and Credit Corporation	405078	379914	0.830	0.890	1.000
National Financial Investments	7323	10719	1.440	1.470	1.000
National Portfolio Securities	138101	109305	0.630	0.750	1.000
Jordan Securities Corporation	74075	66722	0.910	0.910	1.000
Arab Finance Corporation (Jordan)	24964	35275	1.430	1.410	1.000
Real Estate Financing Corporation	—	—	—	—	2.000
Al Mshrek Exchange	—	—	—	—	10.000
Insurance and reinsurance					
Jordan French Insurance	18507	92006	5.050	4.600	1.000
RESCO Life Insurance	3390	38785	11.400	11.250	1.000
Jordan Insurance	3825	3251	0.850	0.850	1.000
Arab Life and Accident Insurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
Yarmouk Insurance and Reinsurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
Holy Land Insurance	2550	2678	1.050	1.050	1.000
Arabian Seas Insurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
Philadelphia Insurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
Arab Union International Insurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
Petra Insurance	1920	2603	1.400	1.350	1.000
Jordan-Gulf Insurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
Universal Insurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
General Insurance	300	465	1.550	1.550	1.000
Jordan Eagle Insurance	—	—	—	—	10.000
Middle East Insurance	—	—	—	—	10.000
Al-Izhar Insurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
National Ahilya Insurance	1000	1350	1.350	1.350	1.000
Services and industries					
Darco for Housing and Investment	102055	66805	0.590	0.620	1.000
Real Estate Investment (Aqaro)	8600	3958	0.440	0.480	1.000
Management and Consultancy	—	—	—	—	1.000
General Investment	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordan Leasing Corporation	1795	1276	0.680	0.720	1.000
Petra Enterprises and Leasing Equipments	58550	10679	0.670	0.680	1.000
Equipment Leasing & Maintenance/Tv/Jerico	28115	13153	0.950	0.970	1.000
Jordanian Electric Power	13458	20417	1.510	1.520	1.000
Irbid District Electricity	—	—	—	—	1.000
Arab International Hotels	120023	64164	0.470	0.530	1.000
Hotels and Tourism	—	—	—	—	1.000
Garage Owners Federation Office	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordan National Shipping Lines	2100	1934	0.900	0.910	1.000
Dar Al Shab Press, Printing and Publishing	57200	70211	0.530	0.520	1.000
Jordan Dairy	122585	157036	1.250	1.260	1.000
Arab Pharmaceutical Manufacturing	15133	30903	2.020	2.030	1.000
Intermediate Petrochemical Industries	782357	845959	0.930	1.090	1.000
Jordan Phosphate Mines	680	1604	2.350	2.360	1.000
Industrial, Commercial and Agricultural (Inta)	3346	4949	1.470	1.500	1.000
Arab Chemical Detergent Industries	864	4848	5.700	5.500	1.000
Aladdin Industries	265950	300221	1.020	1.070	1.000
Arab Aluminium Manufacturing	753422	1442313	1.760	1.890	1.000
Jordan Worsteds Mills	32113	34987	1.040	1.060	1.000
Jordan Ceramics	13891	16357	1.190	1.200	1.000
Chemical Industries and March (JIMCO)	10600	5754	0.540	0.540	1.000
Dar Al Dawa' for Development and Investment	70	95	1.360	1.360	1.000
National Steel Industries	347822	856634	2.320	2.450	1.000
Universal Chemical Industries	27825	24585	0.870	0.880	1.000
General Mining	100	175	1.750	1.750	1.000
Jordan Petroleum Refinery	3460	24546	7.060	7.100	5.000
Jordan Lime & Brick	100625	35517	0.370	0.350	1.000
National Industries	20640	15054	0.700	0.700	1.000
Arab Paper Conversion and Trading	5953	2174	0.360	0.400	1.000
Jordan Wooden Industries (JWICO)	—	—	—	—	1.000
Livestock and Poultry	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordan Pipes Manufacturing	39392	48617	1.230	1.240	1.000
Rafia Industrial for Plastic Bags	250	188	0.850	0.750	1.000
Jordan Paper and Cardboard	400	960	2.400	2.400	1.000
Jordan Rockwool Industries	123100	72423	0.440	0.540	1.000
Trans-Jordan Minerals Research	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordan Himeh Mineral	—	—	—	—	1.000
Orient Dry Batteries Factory	—	—	—	—	1.000
Woolen Industries	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordan Tanning	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordan Printing and Packaging	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordan Tobacco and Cigarette	—	—	—	—	5.000
Jordan Brewery	—	—	—	—	1.000
Mar Industries	—	—	—	—	1.000
Arab Center for Pharmaceuticals & Chemicals	—	—	—	—	1.000
National Cable & Wire Manufacturing	160470	169030	0.940	1.010	1.000
Jordan Spinning & Weaving	39838	27472	0.600	0.760	1.000
Jordan Industrial Investment Corporation	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordan Sulpho Chemicals	715910	241994	3.140	3.690	1.000
Jordan Cement Factories	139901	151716	1.080	1.060	1.000
Grand total	4,962,772	8,195,987			

Wall Street stocks shoot up to record in stunning rally

NEW YORK (R) — An unprecedented one-day leap in Wall Street stock prices has capped a wild week of trading that began with a near-record sell-off and ended with the setting of record highs.

After shaking off worries about increasing interest rates and the sliding dollar, investors Friday surged into the market with buy orders, pushing the Dow Jones industrial average up 69.89 points — its biggest one-day rise.

The Dow closed at 2,390.34, surging past the prior record close of 2,372.59 of a week ago. The previous single-day increase was 54.14 points on Feb. 17.

It was a tumultuous turnaround in the week, just last Monday it fell 57.39 points, its third steepest one-day decline in history.

Friday's price surge began with bad news — a smaller-than-expected rise in March non-farm payroll increase reported early in the day.

When analysts decided the data indicated that the government would have to keep interest rates low to help the sluggish economy, a chain reaction was triggered in the financial markets, beginning with a rally in bonds, then spilling into stocks.

Underlining the strong trading in the markets was the view that the Federal Reserve, the nation's central bank, would continue its

Ackerman of Gruntal and Co. "This is the opposite of what happened on Monday," he noted.

The weak employment figures give the first glimpse of the economy's performance for March, and by indicating still-sluggish growth may have allayed fears that interest rates and inflation would run out of control.

The benchmark 30-year government bond rose more than a half point. Its yield eased well below 7.9 per cent, the year's high reached earlier this week after major banks boosted their prime lending rates for the first time in over two years. Bond prices rise as interest rates decline.

The dollar, which has hampered the stock market's recovery effort this week, aided the rally, moving higher against some currencies.

Its frequent spills lately have raised jitters in financial markets, with investors concerned that foreign cash may be drawn away from U.S. markets if it falls too sharply.

"The market revealed its fears for one flashing moment at the beginning of this week and investors learned what they should be cautious about," said Mr. Gordon.

New rules to govern Iran's imports

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — Iran is introducing new import regulations in an effort to curb blackmarketing and stop the outflow of foreign exchange and the import of luxury goods, a visiting Iranian official said Friday.

Mr. Mahmoud Saneepour, Iran's deputy minister of finance and economic affairs, said under the new regulations, which will go into effect May 5, only accredited Iranian merchants will be allowed to import foreign goods.

These merchants will have unlimited quotas but payment for goods purchased will be made through letters of credit approved by Iran's central bank, Mr.

Saneepour told reporters.

This will force Iranian merchants to trade at the official, rather than blackmarket, exchange rates. The Iranian rial stands at 72 to the U.S. dollar at the official rate.

But on the blackmarket, a dollar could be sold for as much as 950 rials.

Individual Iranians had been allowed to import up to \$1,150 worth of goods. Some merchants were importing goods under other individuals' names and paying them for the use of their allowances, Mr. Saneepour explained.

Merchants in Dubai are studying the impact of the new Iranian

regulations on their businesses.

In 1986, Dubai reexported to Iran goods worth more than \$200 million.

Iran, at war with neighbouring Iraq since 1980, faces periodic shortages of essential goods, most of which are imported from Dubai and sold at huge profits on the blackmarket.

Asked whether he expected the new regulations to encourage smuggling, Mr. Saneepour said Iran's strict laws would deter offenders.

"The new laws will encourage Iran's domestic production and help in checking the big disparity in the official and unofficial rates of exchange," he said.

BA opens regional office in Amman

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — British Airways (BA) will from now on run its operations and customer services in Iran, Iraq, Syria, Lebanon, Egypt and Sudan from its Amman regional office which was officially inaugurated on Saturday.

The opening of a BA regional office in Amman coincides with a worldwide campaign launched by the privately-owned company regarding its external strategy, customer services, sales management as well as reorientation of behaviour and skill of personnel, according to the BA Bahrain-based General Manager for the Middle East and Africa Peter Spencer who co-inaugurated the

event with British Ambassador to Jordan John Coles. Mr. Spencer said that the privatisation of BA in February was associated with a drastic change in the company's image and operations.

Cutting the ribbon for the regional office, number 13 of its type in the world, Mr. Coles told the audience he believed the airline will serve its customers with even higher standards of efficiency and enterprise now that it has become a private share-holding company.

The ambassador said that Jordan was selected to host the regional office and that this choice represented Britain's faith in the Kingdom for its conducive political and economic conditions.

British Airways has also increased its flights to and from Amman from three to four morning flights per week, according to the BA manager for Jordan, Syria and Lebanon. British Airways is currently flying its Amman routes via Cairo and Baghdad.

British Airways managing sales director in Amman Mr. Hanna Hashweh told the Jordan Times that the company's regional office in Amman has hired a large number of Jordanian personnel.

The office will also promote tourism from London to the Kingdom, Mr. Hashweh said. Attending the ceremony, which included a luncheon, were high-level Jordanian officials including the director of the Tourism Authority Nasri Atallah and members of the British embassy in Amman.

YOUR DAILY Horoscope

from the Carroll Righter Institute

FORECAST FOR SUNDAY, APRIL 5, 1987
GENERAL TENDENCIES: You can sleep late today as long as you don't have other obligations or studies to attend to. Be very objective about whatever comes up to test you.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) You can have a fine time at home today if you are more thoughtful of your family. Keep a cheerful manner.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Whatever may arise today requires good common sense. Try not to say anything that will disturb your mate.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Any outside activities are apt to bring some criticism to you, but take this in your stride and profit from it.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) Try not to get into confining work today. Discuss the future with some friends, even if by telephone.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) Concentrate on the highest concepts possible. Be with the person you love the most instead of casual friends.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Concentrate on how best to gain your personal aims. Make plans to see your friends only in the daytime.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) It's not a good day for serious study. Be on the alert for some good opportunity to get ahead.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Get into more modern philosophies if you want to accomplish more. Steer clear of a financial discussion.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Study ways for operating on a more practical level. Spend no time with gossipy friends.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Don't argue with one who is close to you and your mate. Contact outsiders and learn from them.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Although you usually see pals over the weekend, it is best to plan the coming week's activities instead.

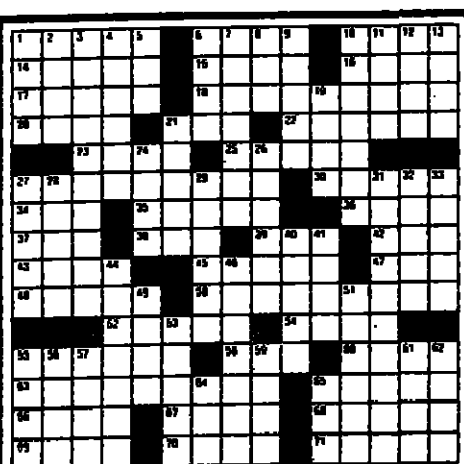
PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Be with congenials today since you should not have any outside duties to perform. Be happy with your loved one.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY ... he, or she, should be taught that it takes time for things to happen. A good family member here, but at the same time will like to have more action and get into public affairs. Be sure you give as fine an education as you can. There is bound to be travel in this lifetime.

THE Daily Crossword By Melvin Kanworthy

ACROSS

- Blanchard
- Translucent
- Sp. river
- Obstruction
- Festive
- Emergency
- Asian mountain system
- Diets
- Lahlan
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- Dodger
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- Great dead
- Bridal paths
- Buddhist temple
- Adriatic island
- Certain friar
- Sweetheart
- Old Eng. festival
- Boil
- South luminous
- Other sign
- Eng. county



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Yesterday's Puzzle Solver:

1. YANKEE
2. PIAO
3. PIAT
4. ARRISE
5. MOVIE
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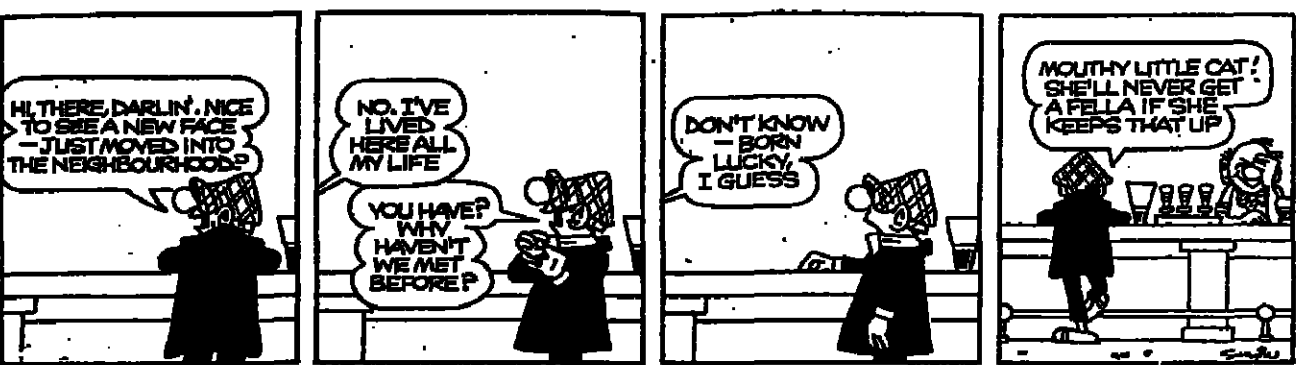
Peanuts



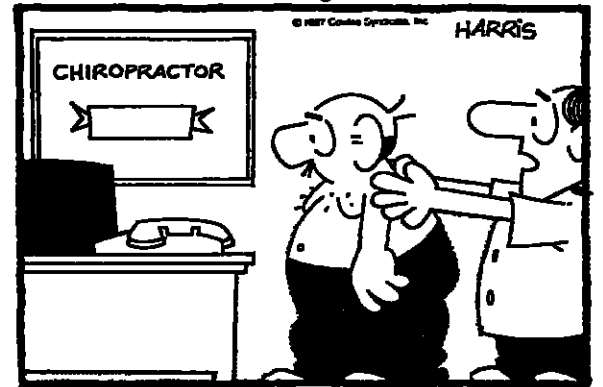
Mutt'n' Jeff



Andy Capp



THE BETTER HALF. By Harris



"You've been sitting at your computer too much! Your spine has floppy disks!"

JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME. by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

Driven by a little old lady once a month

CABIS
FENTO
MEEDER
BRUBUS

WHAT MANY A USED CAR IS NOT.

Now arrange the circled letters to

Philippines disarms vigilantes; NPA rebels shun new peace talks

MANILA (R) — The Philippine military disarmed a group of fanatical anti-Communist vigilantes Saturday after they beheaded a leftwing rebel and drank his blood.

The action came as rebel leaders in Manila denounced the military's use of vigilante squads, saying the practice would only lead to increased violence.

The rebel leaders also rejected Saturday peace talks with the government, saying further negotiations were impossible after President Corason Aquino had ordered her troops to go on the offensive.

District commander Lieutenant-Colonel Jesus Magno said he had ordered members of the Tadtad vigilantes to be disarmed after they chopped off the head of a New People's Army guerrilla last week in Davao Del Sur province in the southern Philippines.

Members of Tadtad, which means "to chop" in Filipino, dis-

played the severed head in a town square and boasted later to reporters that they had drunk the man's blood so his ghost would not haunt them.

Estimated to number 2,000 Tadtad is a fanatical Christian sect attached to a vigilante group organized by the military in Davao in the southern Philippines.

Sect members are armed with machetes and wear amulets around their necks to make them invulnerable to bullets.

"While the NPA is an enemy, one should not chop off their heads. It's inhuman," Col. Magno told Reuters in a telephone interview from his provincial headquarters.

"They (the Tadtad) should be

made to answer for what they did. The law must be upheld," he added.

Cult members involved in the incident had been detained during the investigation, Col. Magno said.

In Manila, the chief negotiator for the Communist-led National Democratic Front (NDF) told reporters Mrs. Aquino had no choice but to escalate the battle against insurgents because of her close relations with the United States, which he said was opposed to negotiations.

Mr. Satur Ocampo told a news conference in a guerrilla hideout that this made further peace talks with the Aquino government impossible.

He said the Aquino government would have to pour its resources into a massive military operation.

"The revolutionary forces will overcome this escalated offensive until the government depletes its

resources," Mr. Ocampo said.

More than 400 people have died since fighting flared anew after initial peace negotiations and a 60-day ceasefire collapsed in February.

The latest casualties included 16 civilians killed recently in northern Kalina-Apayao province, where about 2,000 troops have launched what the military described as a major operation against 500 rebels, the Manila newspaper Philippines Daily Inquirer reported Saturday.

Elsewhere, soldiers on Wednesday arrested a regional NPA commander as he was about to enter a Roman Catholic convent in southern Cotabato province, the Philippine News Agency reported.

The agency said soldiers raided the convent and found "subversive documents" after arresting the guerrilla leader, Rodolfo Corpin.

Reagan starts 24-hour visit to Canada today

WASHINGTON (R) — President Reagan Sunday makes his first foreign trip since his administration was hit by the Iran arms scandal, flying to Ottawa to review complex U.S.-Canadian problems with Prime Minister Brian Mulroney.

Officials say no new agreements will be signed during Mr. Reagan's 24-hour stay in Ottawa where talks will focus on trade and environmental issues. Arms control, defence and global topics will also be on the agenda.

Although officials of both countries are emphasizing that the important bilateral issues outweigh any domestic political aspects of the meetings, both men will be seeking political benefits as they struggle with leadership problems.

Mr. Reagan, who as now emerged from a long period of semi-isolation that followed last November's disclosure of the scandal over the sale of U.S. arms to Iran and diversion of profits to Nicaraguan rebels, will be continuing his campaign to reassert his leadership as he enters the last lap of his presidency.

Mr. Mulroney, whose Progressive Conservative government has been hit by a series of scan-

dals, must walk a fine line as he seeks to show himself a strong and determined advocate of Canadian interests while maintaining his cordial relations with Washington.

Mr. Reagan will make a speech to a joint session of the Canadian Parliament on Monday that U.S. officials said would deal with global themes and the U.S. and Canadian roles.

Trade issues and the perennial problem of acid rain — cross border pollutants that damage lakes, vegetation, wildlife and buildings in eastern Canada and the north eastern United States — are expected to feature in the leaders' private talks.

Mr. Reagan acted to smooth the way to the summit on March 18 when he announced plans to seek \$2.5 billion over five years to fund demonstration projects to cut emissions from American smokestacks, the prime cause of acid rain.

This sum, with matching money from the private sector, was recommended by special envoys of the two countries in a report in January, 1986, that was later endorsed by Mr. Reagan and Mr. Mulroney.

Tamils reportedly kill 98 in revenge attack on rivals

COLOMBO (R) — Sri Lanka's most powerful Tamil guerrilla group has murdered 98 suspected members of rival separatist groups in apparent revenge for a grenade attack on one of its leaders, a government spokesman said Saturday.

He said the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), which has sought in the past to crush other separatist groups, shot dead 33 people Friday on the Jaffna peninsula.

"Right through the night, the army camp in Jaffna town heard machine-gun fire and grenade blasts," the spokesman told Reuters.

The government said earlier that the LTTE on Thursday rounded up 28 youths in the northern peninsula, which it largely controls, and killed them early Friday. A second group of 37 people were killed later.

The fatalities reports, which the spokesman said were supplied by military intelligence sources,

have not been independently confirmed.

The victims were suspected members of the Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front (EPRLF) and the Tamil Eelam Liberation Organisation (TELO), the spokesman said.

All the groups are fighting for a separate Tamil state in north and east Sri Lanka.

The LTTE has been on the warpath to avenge a grenade attack on Monday on its Jaffna commander, Sathasivampillai Krishnakumar, who was wounded in his car.

Diplomatic sources said Krishnakumar had been smuggled across the Palk Straits to Trincomalee in south India where he was being treated.

Tamil sources said that though the LTTE suspected its rivals were behind the attack, it was probing the possibility that government agents might have been responsible.

Gorbachev to take message of change to Czechoslovakia

MOSCOW (R) — Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, already committed at home to policies of change and economic reform, takes his drive to invigorate the Communist Bloc a step further on Monday when he starts a visit to Czechoslovakia.

He will be visiting a country long ruled by one of the most conservative Eastern European leaders.

Allied leaders in Bulgaria, East Germany, Hungary, Poland and Romania will be watching closely for signs of how far Mr. Gorbachev expects his Warsaw Pact colleagues to take a lead from the course for change that he has mapped out at home.

The visit takes on special significance for the Prague leadership, since President Gustav Husak and his aides are virtually the same team who were given the task of halting the "Prague Spring" reforms of disgraced leader Alexander Dubcek after the Warsaw Pact invasion of August 1968.

Mr. Husak, 74, last month publicly embraced the principles of Mr. Gorbachev's strategy for change in the economy and Communist Party, after a period of debate in Prague over how to respond to the new initiatives in

the Kremlin.

Elsewhere in Eastern Europe, reaction to Mr. Gorbachev's domestic changes has varied from enthusiasm in Poland to strong scepticism in Romania, reflecting the particular interests, traditions and problems of each Soviet ally.

Mr. Gorbachev's new policies have involved more openness in the state media, wider public influence on decision-making, less rigid electoral procedures in the party, the release of some dissidents and a greater degree of legal private enterprise.

Poland's Wojciech Jaruzelski, who at 63 is the youngest Bloc leader after Mr. Gorbachev, is introducing some of these changes even before the New Kremlin leader took power in 1985.

Diplomats in Moscow said the Polish leadership would welcome the implicit message of approval for its policies which is contained in Mr. Gorbachev's initiatives.

The same is true for Hungary's János Kadar, 74, who first started economic reforms in 1968. With Mr. Kadar likely to leave office in the next few years, Mr. Gorbachev has signalled that Moscow would welcome a similarly-minded leader in Budapest.

India, Bangladesh officials start talks on insurgency

DHAKA (R) — Indian and Bangladesh security officials started talks here Saturday aimed at ending a tribal insurgency along their border, officials said.

They said the heads of both the Indian para-military Border Security Force and Bangladesh Rifles were leading their teams at the two-day talks.

The two sides have described the talks as routine annual meeting but officials said the guerrilla war in southern Bangladesh and the repatriation of refugees who have fled the fighting into India were high on the agenda.

More than 1,000 people have been killed since the outlawed Shanti Bahini (peace force) launched a guerrilla war to seek

autonomy for the Chittagong Hill Tracts, an area of 14,200 square kilometres bordering the north-east Indian state of Tripura and Burma.

M.C. Misra, director-general of the Indian Border Security Force, told reporters at Dhaka airport Friday night he would also discuss the repatriation of Bangladesh refugees who had fled to Tripura.

Dhaka says about 26,000 Chakma tribesmen have crossed to Tripura. New Delhi says the figure is much higher.

An attempt to begin the repatriation failed last January. India said the refugees were too frightened to leave. Bangladesh said India obstructed their return.

Italian court convicts 65 at Messina mafia trial

MESSINA, Sicily (R) — A Sicilian court has convicted 65 mafia suspects of criminal association, including one gang boss who received a 13-year prison sentence.

The court in Messina sentenced two other mafia bosses to six years jail, but acquitted 180 other defendants at the end of a trial lasting nearly a year.

The 65 convicted received a total of 383 years in jail.

Much of the prosecution evidence was provided by Giuseppe Insolito, a mafia turncoat, whose

father was badly wounded in a gang attack three days after the trial began.

The prosecution said the defendants belonged to four mafia "families" who among them controlled drug trafficking and prostitution in the north eastern Sicilian town.

But of the family bosses only Gaetano Costa, who got the 13-year sentence, Carmelo Milone and Placido Carli were found guilty, while the fourth alleged boss Lorenzo Ingemi was freed.

Study shows extensive pollution at 3 U.S. plants

OAK RIDGE, Tennessee (AP) — Uranium and mercury pollution at three government plants here over 30 years was more extensive than expected, but releases have been greatly reduced and any health threat has been reduced by natural processes, a study has said.

The 11-member Oak Ridge Environmental Advisory Committee studied releases at the Department of Energy's Oak Ridge gaseous diffusion plant, the Y-12 nuclear weapons plant and Oak Ridge National Laboratory.

The two-year study noted that about 36 million pounds (16 mil-

lion kgs.) of uranium waste were released to the environment from the Y-12 gaseous diffusion plants from 1944 to 1984.

About 239,000 pounds (108,000 kgs) of mercury was dumped into the East Fork of Poplar Creek during the 1950s, the report said. The creek empties into the Clinch River, a source of drinking water for some residents.

The committee's 100-page report said plant secrecy and a lack of knowledge about initial inventories of the uranium and mercury make it difficult or impos-

3 shot in clashes at papal mass in Chile

SANTIAGO (R) — Three people, including a boy, were wounded by gunfire and more than 100 others injured in clashes between police and anti-government youths during a mass celebrated by Pope John Paul II, police and hospital sources said.

Officials at a hospital near the central city park where the mass took place and which was jammed with an estimated one million people, said that three people, including a 13-year-old boy and a woman Chilean journalist, were admitted with bullet wounds.

They were among about 100 civilians that hospital sources said were treated following the clashes, the most violent witnessed since the Pope arrived on Wednesday for a six-day visit.

Priests standing close to the Pope raised handkerchiefs to their faces to protect themselves from the wafting tear gas fired by the police, but the Pope gave no sign of discomfort.

Some priests left the papal area to seek to calm the crowd. "We have always sought to respect you, why do you do this to us," one priest was heard to say.

The government television station, which normally ignores anti-military protests, gave heavy coverage to the violence in its news programme. It spoke of priests being among the injured when the youths stoned journalists standing near the papal stage.

A local radio station spoke of several hundred people being treated, but this was not confirmed in Reuter checks with hospitals.

Police sources said 38 officers were hurt in the disturbances which erupted after a group, chanting slogans against the military government of President Augusto Pinochet, began stoning security forces and journalists gathered near the papal podium.

Police responded by deploying water cannon and firing tear gas. Vatican officials said the smell of the gas was clearly noticeable on the papal platform and that the pontiff must have felt some effect. But he needed no treatment, they said.

As the Pope began to say the mass, during which he beatified Sister Teresa De Los Andes, the first Chilean to become a candidate for sainthood, police moved in to disperse the young demonstrators.

Twenty-seven people were arrested.

Monsignor Francisco Cox, head of the visit organising committee, condemned the violence as a grave lack of respect for the Pope. Those responsible "do not know what it is to respect the Pope, the people of Chile ... They do not respect our faith or religion."

The disturbances were also attacked by leaders of Chilean opposition parties, who had a meeting with the Pope following the mass.

A crowd approaching one million people had packed into the O'Higgins Park to attend the mass, the Pope's last public appearance before leaving for the south of the country to continue his tour.

Reagan approves development of manned space station

WASHINGTON (R) — President Reagan has approved development of a scaled-down manned space research station to be placed in orbit in the mid-1990s, the National Aeronautics and Space Agency (NASA) said.

NASA said in a statement it expects the first phase of the station would provide a permanently manned research capability in 1996 for up to eight astronauts in rotating crew.

The station will include laboratory modules produced by the European Space Agency and Japan and the first phase of a mobile servicing system provided by Canada, it said.

The space agency said it would seek congressional approval to ask the aerospace industry for proposals for design and development contracts.

Its estimated cost is \$10.9 billion, compared with an ori-

ginal estimate of \$8 billion, NASA said. It added a further \$1.3 billion would be needed for preparatory engineering and support work over the next eight years at NASA's field centres.

Meanwhile space probes to Jupiter and the Sun that were to have flown last year on the space shuttle have been rescheduled for shuttle launches in 1989 and 1990, NASA announced Friday.

The Galileo mission to explore Jupiter was set for late 1989, while the Ulysses payload to study the Sun was scheduled for October 1990. Ulysses is a joint NASA-European Space Agency project.

Both were to have been launched last May, five days apart, but were put on hold after the space shuttle fleet was grounded following the explosion of Challenger on Jan. 28, 1986.

FBI starts probe into makers of shuttle rocket

WASHINGTON (R) — The FBI has begun a criminal investigation into Morton Thiokol, maker of the booster rocket blamed for the loss of the Challenger space shuttle, Justice Department sources have said.

The department sources said the investigation was in connection with a civil suit against Thiokol but said they had no other information.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) refused to deny or confirm it was questioning employees of Morton Thiokol in connection with a suit against the company by a former Thiokol

engineer.

Thiokol engineer Roger Boisjoly, now on medical disability, in a suit filed two months ago, alleged criminal responsibility by Thiokol in the deaths of the seven Challenger astronauts on Jan. 28, 1986.

Challenger blew up little more than a minute after leaving the launch pad, killing the seven.

Boisjoly is also seeking damages from Thiokol for allegedly defaming his professional reputation after he had testified to a presidential commission by transferring him to a less important job.

Jewel sale of the century raises \$50 million to fight AIDS

GENEVA (R) — The Duchess of Windsor's fabulous collection of modern jewellery has earned a staggering 75 million Swiss francs (\$50 million) in the jewel sale of the century and the proceeds will help to fight AIDS.

The jewellery, a glittering historic memento of the "romance of the century" between the twice-divorced American and King Edward VIII, raised 10 times the amount expected by Sotheby's Auction House.

Buyers in a frenzied two-day sale that ended here Friday night included actress Elizabeth Taylor. She paid 935,000 Swiss francs (\$625,000) for a diamond clip designed as the plumes and crown of the Prince of Wales, Edward's title before he became king.

A royal naval officer's sword dated 1913 and worn by Edward when he was the Prince of Wales brought 2.2 million Swiss francs (\$1.46 million) from an anonymous bidder.

There were fierce duels between buyers on both sides of the Atlantic as they vied to acquire exquisite masterpieces by Cartier, Van Cleef and Arpels, Dardo and Fils and other 20th century master craftsmen.

Bids leapt by 100,000 Swiss francs (\$65,000) a call.

The duchess left her collection to the Pasteur Institute for

Medical Research in Paris, which has a prominent role in research to combat the deadly AIDS (acquired immune deficiency syndrome) virus.

The institute announced at the sale that it would use money raised by the collection to build and run new laboratories seeking a cure for AIDS.

The sale looks set to drive up the value of all high-quality jewellery from the 1940s and 1950s.

"Jewellery from the period was gaining in popularity anyway and the auction, which exceeded our wildest estimates, looks certain to put all high-quality pieces from the 1940s and 1950s at a premium," he added.

Most of the jewels and assorted love tokens were gifts from Edward, who met Baltimore-born Wallis Warfield Simpson when he was Prince of Wales, heir to the throne.

As King Edward VIII, he abdicated on Dec. 11, 1936, after a reign of 11 months to marry her. They lived in exile in Paris as the Duke and Duchess of Windsor.

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Charles on private visit to Botswana

GABORONE, Botswana (AP) — Britain's Prince Charles did not return home at the end of his official, three-nation southern African tour as previously announced, but flew to Botswana for a short, private vacation, officials said. Buckingham Palace confirmed that the Prince of Wales is on a private visit to Botswana with his friend, Sir Laurens Van Der Post, a South African author. The palace said he would arrive back in London on April 8. A civil aviation spokesman in Botswana, who did not want to be identified by name, said the prince arrived at Francistown Airport aboard a Royal Air Force VC-10 after leaving Kenya.

Mob beats murder suspects to death

RIO DE JANEIRO (R) — A 300 strong mob beat two murder suspects to death in the north-eastern Brazilian state of Bahia, the Estado De Sao Paulo News Agency reported. The mob formed a road block and seized the men from a police escort on the outskirts of the town of Itamaraju where they were said to have stabbed a taxi driver and escaped in his car. In the past 60 days 19 suspected killers have died in similar circumstances in the state of Bahia alone, the agency said.

Irish theatre group leaves for world tour

DUBLIN (R) — After breaking all box office records in Dublin, the Gate Theatre's production of Irish playwright Sean O'Casey's masterpiece *Junno*, and the Paycock is going on a world tour, a theatre spokesman has announced. First stop for the highly acclaimed production, starring Irish actor Donal McCann, will be the Israel festival. The production, which has been sold out during two runs at the 60-year-old Gate Theatre in Dublin, will then go to the Edinburgh Festival in Scotland before the troupe flies on to Australia for performances in Sydney, the spokesman added.

Krizia's stolen collection found

MILAN, Italy (R) — Police has reported recovering the \$615,000 autumn and winter fashion collection of leading Italian designer Krizia, which was stolen last month. The 1,600 garments, presented at the Milan fashion shows earlier in March, were taken from Krizia's showroom. Police said the theft appeared to be the work of professionals hired by black market dealers who probably planned to flood the market with cheap imitations of the designs. The items — coats, dresses, lingerie, casual wear and knitwear — were found in a warehouse outside Milan.

Electricity company has unusual problems

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa (AP) — Itchy rhinos, revengeful elephants and fatally-tall giraffes require unusual tactics by the electricity supply commission to maintain its power lines and utility poles. Rhinoceroses recently have been using electricity poles to scratch their itchy hides, instead of rubbing up against the traditional Marula trees. The rhinos rub so hard that they dislodge the poles from the ground, or cause the power lines to sway against each other, producing power failures. The company has begun piling boulders around the poles to keep the rhinos away, said commission spokeswoman Florette De Leeuw in a newspaper interview. But at the same time, the crews have put up special rubbing poles to keep the rhinos happy. "Five years ago, an elephant who barged into pole was electrocuted," she said, "and after the pole was repaired, the elephant's mates attacked it several times in reprisal. That is when we came up with the idea of protecting poles with boulders." She also said giraffes in the Sabie Sand Game Reserve, the largest private reserve in the country, had been electrocuted by walking into the power lines, so the lines were raised higher to accommodate them. "We usually avoid running power lines through game reserves but some of them, like the Sabie Sand Game Reserve (bordering Kruger National Park) have tourist camps which require electricity for lighting, refrigeration and water pumps," she said.

Chaplin out, 'MASH' in for IBM ads

NEW YORK (R) — Charlie Chaplin has fallen into the gears of modern times. After six loyal years touting IBM's personal computers, the adorable little tramp has been MASH-ed. The crew from the old MASH television series has bumped Charlie and regrouped in civvies to promote International Business Machines' New Personal System/2 Computers. They're all there except Hawkeye and Winchester, who may want a fatter re-enlistment bonus. The Chaplin character, played by Billy Scuter, will continue to be used overseas. But IBM felt that in the United States the idea of interrelated productivity — the theme of the new campaign — was not a concept for one lonely little tramp. Trade sources say the entire campaign, involving TV, radio and print, carries a \$40 million price tag. IBM is not divulging figures.

Murderess admits 2 more killings

LONDON (R) — Notorious British murderess Myra Hindley, serving a life sentence for helping her lover kill two children, has admitted to her part in the deaths of two other youngsters who vanished more than 20 years ago. The chilling confession came after four days of intense questioning by police hunting for the missing bodies on a desolate moor in northern England. She blamed her involvement in the killings of Pauline Reade, 16, and Keith Bennett, 12, on her "obsession and infatuation" with Ian Brady. In a statement issued through her solicitor Michael Fisher, Hindley said that at the time of the trial she could not bring herself to admit the full truth. Hindley, who was convicted in 1966 of helping Brady murder two children, has in recent months been taken to Saddleworth Moor to help in the search for the bodies of Reade and Bennett.

Smoking ban takes effect

BEVERLY HILLS, California (AP) — Non-smokers celebrated clean air in restaurants, but smokers fumed as a no-smoking law they perceive as a breach of civil rights took effect. Attorneys for local restaurants filed a court appeal Thursday in a bid to block the new law before it costs local eating establishments too much money. "There have been some cancellations. It may in fact be costing some business. They'd actually started calling right after they heard the news," Beverly Hills Restaurant Association attorney Vince Waldman said Friday. The law forbids smoking in retail stores, at public meetings and in all restaurants except those in hotels. Aspen, Colorado, is the only other city in the country that has such strict smoking regulations. Waldman said he sought an immediate stay of Los Angeles superior court Judge Ricardo A. Torres' ruling upholding the law passed last week by the city council. "It's just plain unfair to discriminate against restaurants just because they don't happen to be in hotels," Waldman said. However, city officials contend that the hotel restaurants will be incorporated into the ordinance soon.

Dutch police raid first drugs museum

AMSTERDAM (R) — Only a day after opening, the world's first soft drugs museum was raided by police, its exhibits were confiscated, and it could face closure. Police told the owner, Jans Grootjen, 23, she might be charged with encouraging the use of cannabis and marijuana. Amsterdam, long dubbed the European centre for sex and narcotics, gained a new attraction with the official opening of the "Hash Info Museum" in the city's red light district. The museum aimed to tell the story of soft drugs and its exhibits included samples of hashish from around the world — all sprayed by police to make them unusable. But the Amsterdam public prosecutor's spokesman Leo De Wit said it had attracted too much attention.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
AND OMAR SHAMF
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WHY GUESS A SURE THING?

Both vulnerable. East deals.

NORTH
♦ Q72
♦ Q9754
♦ A7
♦ KJ4

WEST EAST
♦ 106 ♦ A K J 8 5 4
♦ K ♦ Void
♦ K J 9 6 3 2 ♦ 10 8 5 4
♦ Q 7 6 2 ♦ 9 8 5

SOUTH
♦ 8 3
♦ A J 10 8 6 3 2
♦ Q
♦ A 10 3

The bidding:
East South West North
2 ♣ 3 ♣ Pass 4 ♣
Pass 4 ♣ Pass Pass

Opening lead: Ten of ♠

Bridge is really a simple game: it's the players who make it difficult. See if you would find life easy in four hearts after West leads the ten of spades, East wins the first two tricks with the jack and king and continues with the ace.

We are not in favor of opening a weak two-bid when you hold a void. It makes it very difficult for partner to judge whether or not to sacrifice if the hand belongs to the

opponents, or whether to go on to game if it is your hand. After South overcalled at the three-level vulnerable, North felt his hand merited one move toward slam.

If you are the eternal optimist, when East leads the third round of spades you would ruff with the ten. As the cards lay, West would overruff and exit with the king of diamonds. Undeterred, you would win the ace and then guess which way to take the club finesse. You would probably be right more than half the time, but then again, we know some players who haven't guessed the location of a missing queen this year.

On the other hand, if you are one of those people who likes the easy way out, you would ruff the third spade with the ace of trumps! Now no matter what the defenders do, your contract is assured.

Of course, you have a bit of work to do first. Cash the ace of diamonds and r